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SKETCH

OF THE

CHARACTER OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE

PRINCE OF DENMARK.

To which is added,

A SHORT REVIEW OF THE PRESENT STATE

OF

LITERATURE AND THE POLITE ARTS

IN THAT COUNTRY.

INTERSPERSED WITH ANECDOTES.

IN FOUR LETTERS, BY A GENTLEMAN LONG RESIDENT IN COPENHAGEN TO HIS FRIEND IN LONDON.

On life, on morals be thy thought employ'd,
Leave to the ſchools the atoms and their void.

RAMBLER.

LONDON:

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1791.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE eyes of Europe having been of late fixed on Denmark, it is natural to ſuppoſe, that every Engliſhman in particular ſhould intereſt himſelf in whatever concerns that country. Her ſituation, as if intended by nature to hold the balance of the North, and to become a formidable naval power, is intitled to the deepeſt conſideration; her connections too with this kingdom, at a former period, ought to render Denmark ſtill dear to Great Britain, and to fill every well-wiſher to the proſperity of both with a wiſh, that the pledge of that union, the Prince Royal

of Denmark, may render himſelf worthy of his anceſtry, and realize thoſe hopes, which the dawn of manhood inſpired.—Theſe conſiderations gave birth to the following correſpondence, in which information is principally aimed at. The writer did not wiſh to extend himſelf on that ſubject; he meant this only as a ſupplement to the account which his Serene Highneſs the Prince of Heſſe Caſſel has given of his royal ſon-in-law, in his *Memoirs of the Daniſh Campaign in Sweden, in* 1788, a work of great impartiality and philanthrophy. In fine, whatever has been advanced in the following imperfect ſketches, is founded on facts, and will bear in that reſpect the ſtricteſt examination.

LETTER

LETTER I.

DEAR SIR,

MY long reſidence in Copenhagen enables me in a degree to gratify your requeſt, which I ſhall not protract by any apology.

The character of His Royal Highneſs the Prince of Denmark, in whatever light it may be viewed, is pleaſing and intereſting. His love for his country is equalled only by that affection and reſpect, which he entertains, and which on all occaſions he evinces for his father—a Prince, who has too much ſenſe and philanthropy, to wiſh for any power, but that which may enable him to promote the peace and proſperity of his fellow-citizens, and too much wiſ-

dom, though young in years, to look upon thoſe as his friends who would make their court to him, by holding out thoſe flattering but illuſive images of greatneſs, by which Princes are too often dazzled, and led to invade the rights of men, which it was originally intended they ſhould guard.

His Royal Highneſs has given the moſt unequivocal proofs of his attachment to his country and his ſovereign: he has ſtood forward more than once, in defence of the firſt bleſſing, that a nation can boaſt—the LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

Voltaire's Épître au Roi de Dannemarc will never be forgotten, in which that ſovereign enemy to tyranny and ſuperſtition congratulates his Daniſh Majeſty, on being the firſt Prince in Europe, (our own excepted only) who had a ſuch degree of common ſenſe, as to break thoſe numerous fetters, which crippled and weighed down the preſs, through which truth and learning naturally ſought the light. Fear, envy, old preju-

dices, &c. muſtered their forces, but in vain; and we live to ſee them die away before the refulgent beams of the former, like darkneſs before the dawn of day.

In Denmark, this blow has proved fatal to many favourite prejudices, ſuperſtitious tenets, and above all, to the goddeſs, whoſe head is encircled with lazy fogs, and who has long ruled with ſoporific ſway. At the time the young Prince received his fathers orders to aſſiſt him in bearing the burden of the ſtate, public affairs wore a more favourable aſpect, than perhaps, at any other period, at leaſt for ſome time paſt. An application was made to him to reſtore the CENSURE, in order that nothing might be printed, which had not paſſed the ordeal of the univerſity. Thoſe, who preferred this requeſt, had addreſs enough to inſinuate, that His Royal Highneſs himſelf had been treated with a freedom, beyond what he ought, in ſome pamphlets, which if paſſed over in ſilence, might give birth to conſequences the moſt alarming. His High-

neſs liſtened to theſe artful ſuggeſtions with attention peculiar to himſelf, and at the end of which, he declared, "That ſorry as he was, that any part of his conduct ſhould be viewed through a medium at once ſo unfavourable; and yet, perhaps, in ſome reſpects juſt, as all men were ſubject to err; that he felt himſelf more indebted to thoſe who had courage to point out his failings, than to thoſe friends, whoſe partiality induced them to varniſh, or throw them into ſhade: and that in future he ſhould endeavour, to act in ſuch a manner, as to leave as little cauſe of complaint, as poſſible;" and he aſſured the gentlemen before they parted from him, that it was ſo far from his intention to adviſe his father to reſtrain the liberty of the preſs, that he ſhould be the firſt on any motion regularly made for that purpoſe to ſtand forward, to maintain and ſupport that law, which his father had promulged in favour of it: as he was perſuaded, with his Royal Parent, that it added to the happineſs of the ſubject. Let any one,

added the Prince, who may conceive himſelf injured in that reſpect, ſue the author in a court of law, and I am perſuaded that he will meet all that juſtice to which his cauſe may entitle him. In ſhort, His Royal Highneſs not only patronizes but protects the freedom of the preſs, without which he is ſenſible the knowledge of letters would be deprived of that efficacy and power, which they are endowed with, even to a degree of magic; and, notwithſtanding that he well knows, that it has been levelled againſt himſelf, for he reads all the new publications, he ſays that it is not fair to argue againſt the uſe of any thing, from the abuſe of it; in conſequence of which, he paſſes over many of theſe literary articles, with that generoſity and forgiveneſs, which are ever found inſeparable from a great mind.

Before we go farther, it will be neceſſary to obſerve that the mother of the Prince was CAROLINA MATILDA, the ſiſter of our ſovereign. The Prince was born on the 28th of

January, 1768; from that to 1772 he was nurſed by his Royal Mother, and, in his eighth year, he was placed under the care of General EICHSTED *, one of the miniſters of ſtate, together with GEORGE SPORON †, a learned Dane: his own houſehold was then fixed, and the Prince's table was encircled twice a day with gentlemen of the very firſt excellence in their departments. I have heard ſome of thoſe gueſts ſay, who had ſtudied the temper of their Royal Hoſt, that he diſcovered, at a very early period, an uniformity and preſence of mind, that would have reflected dignity on riper years; particularly as thoſe rare qualities were balanced and directed by a cool

* HANS HENRY EICHSTEDT, Knight of the Order of the Elephant, Lord Chamberlain and General of the Cavalry; received his diſmiſſion as Miniſter of State, in 1784, and retired from Court to his eſtate.

† GEORGE SPORON, Counſellor of Conferences, Grand Bailiff of Coldinghus, author of ſeveral learned treatiſes; amongſt which that on Synonimous Words in the Daniſh language, 2 vol. 8vo. for the uſe of his royal pupil, may be claſſed with the beſt of that kind.

and deliberate judgment. Anxious to accumulate knowledge, his queſtions were always directed with that aim; and, in order to be thoroughly informed on every point, he frequently repeated his queries at long intervals to the ſame perſon, to remark, if the laſt anſwer tallied with the firſt. His favourite ſubject, even in converſation, was the nobleſt that could poſſibly ſuggeſt itſelf to the human mind, THE RIGHTS OF MAN, the Conſtitution of Denmark, and the relative ſituation of the ſurrounding nations. His interviews with Count BERNSTORFF*,

* ANDREAS PETRUS, Count of BERNSTORFF, Knight of the Order of the Elephant, Miniſter of State for foreign affairs, Preſident of the German Chancery, &c. This nobleman is heir and ſucceſſor to the late JOH. HARTW. ERNEST Count BERNSTORFF, who united in his character all thoſe talents of the mind and qualities of the heart, that could juſtly recommend him to the general eſteem of his own times, and tranſmit his name with honour to poſterity. Indeed no name is higher on the roll of thoſe citizens, whoſe memory is moſt revered for a warm and diſintereſted love of their country. Actuated by that generous ſpirit, he was the firſt, who attempted the abolition of feudal ſlavery in Denmark; and in order to ſhew, that he really thought the condition of a *glebæ adſcriptus* was a violent infringement

the preſent miniſter of ſtate; Count SCHIMMELMAN*; Count CHRIST. REVENTLOW†; Chamberlain SUHM‡; Counſellor ERICHSEN§ and KOFOED

of the laws of human nature, he gave perfect freedom to all his vaſſals, with the advice of his noble heir. The conſequences were ſuch as might be expected. The tenants of Bernſtorff, formerly wretched as all their neighbours, had no ſooner taken the land, which they inhabited in a perpetual feu, and begun to labour for their own benefit, than plenty and happineſs took up their abode amongſt them, and rendered them the objects of admiration and envy. And ſo ſenſible have the tenants been of this, that they have erected a very handſome monument of marble to the memory of their deceaſed father and benefactor, near the high road leading to Copenhagen, which the traveller often bedews with the tear of gratitude, intermingled with rapture, in reflecting on thoſe deeds, which crowned the trueſt friend of human rights.

* ERNEST HENRY Count of SCHIMMELMAN, Knight of the Order of the Elephant, Miniſter of State, firſt Lord of the Treaſury, &c.

† CHRISTIAN DITLEV FRIDERICK, Count of REVENTLOW, Knight of the Order of Dannebrog, Preſident of the Exchequer.

‡ PETER FREDERICK SUHM, one of the Lords of his Daniſh Majeſty's Bed-chamber, Hiſtoriographer to the King; Preſident of the Daniſh Society for the improvements of the Daniſh Language and Hiſtory.

§ JOHN ERICHSEN, Counſellor of Conferences, and one of the Lords of the Exchequer; a gentleman much eſteemed for his elegant taſte and learning; he died in 1787.

ANKER*, Profeſſor of Law, were frequent; and he entertained a great affection for Privy Counſellor LUXDORPH†, firſt Deputy of the Daniſh Chancery, whoſe deep knowledge in whatever concerned his country, was tempered with an equal ſhare of prudence and Attic ſalt. In 1784 the Prince was firſt publicly examined in the principles of our ſacred religion, for which, on all occaſions, he manifeſts the higheſt reſpect. He now began to diſcover what is called the ruling paſſion, for hitherto he had not intermeddled in any public buſineſs, or even taken

* PETER KOFOED ANKER, Counſellor of Conferences, and Profeſſor of Civil Law in the Univerſity of Copenhagen. What the illuſtrious Blackſtone was amongſt us, the late Anker has proved himſelf to be in Denmark. His Lectures on the Conſtitution of that Country are highly eſteemed. He died in 1787.

† BOLLE WILLIALM LUXDORPH, Knight of the Order of Dannebrog, firſt Deputy of the Daniſh Chancery, Preſident of the Royal Society of Sciences. He died in 1788.

upon himſelf to recommend any meaſure beyond that of a mere ſpectator. But in 1784 he had no ſooner taken his ſeat in the Privy Council, than he opened a new ſcene, as intereſting as it was novel. GENERAL WARRANTS, which had been but too common, in an inſtant were aboliſhed; the Prince, in an open and manly manner, avowed himſelf an enemy of them. The Peaſants till 1787 had been in a ſituation little better than the brute creation; they ſcarce could be ſaid to poſſeſs any loco-motive power, inſomuch that, they had no liberty to leave one eſtate and to ſettle on another, without the purchaſed permiſſion from their maſters; and if they chanced to move without their permiſſion, they were claimed as ſtrayed cattle. Such was the ſtate of thoſe wretched beings, who, at beſt*, only might be ſaid to vegetate. Theſe chains of feudal ſlavery were now broken, through the in-

* The reader is requeſted to refer to page 124 for a note concerning this matter.

tereſt of his Royal Highneſs; and the priſoners, for ſuch I think they might be called, were declared free, upon a plan laid down by the patriotic and humane Count BERNSTORFF and Count CHRISTIAN DITLEF FRIDERICH REVENTLOW.

The trade of Iceland, which for upwards of four centuries had been monopolized, firſt by the Hanſe-towns and afterwards by a few individuals of Copenhagen, was thrown open in 1787 to every ſubject of the Daniſh empire. In ſhort, the flame of liberty, which glowed in Iceland, once more under his auſpices began to illume that long neglected country; as he looks on the Icelanders with the ſame indulgent eye, that he does on the Danes, from the firſt principles of ſound policy, it is not to be wondered at that he is adored in the moſt diſtant receſſes of that region. A law was likewiſe paſſed to encourage foreigners to ſettle in Iceland. No law was ever framed on freer principles of humanity and juſtice, for there cannot be a

ſtronger proof of the Prince's attachment to both, than the firſt article, by which his majeſty, in purſuance of the repreſentation of his ſon, has enacted, that every new ſettler of the Chriſtian perſuaſion in Iceland ſhall have the moſt uncontrouled liberty to worſhip the Supreme Being in whatever manner he conceived to be the beſt; and that ſuch ſettler and his poſterity ſhall be entitled to all the immunities, which the native ſubjects of Denmark enjoy, as long as they demean themſelves as peaceable citizens*.

When the royal father and ſon thus publicly declared, that they verily believed, that man, whatever his religion might be, ought to enjoy the ſame privileges, it need not be a matter of ſurpriſe, that the Prince, on coming of age, ordered, that every perſon ſhould have free acceſs to his preſence.

* The charter and privileges given to new ſettlers in Iceland is dated Chriſtianſbourg on the 17th of November, 1786. A like privilege has been alſo granted to the new ſettlers in Finmark, dated in the Palace of Frederik'ſberg, on the 17th of July, 1789.

Even the minuteſt articles which is preferred on thoſe occaſions, never fail to draw his attention; and in order to be able to diſcharge thoſe duties, which he has impoſed on himſelf, he has laid down certain rules and mode of living, which he adheres to with the greateſt exactneſs.

He riſes at ſix; reads when he is dreſſing, the petitions preſented to him the preceding evening; rides out, reviews the garriſon, returns at twelve; and when dreſſing, reads ſuch papers, as may have been preſented in the forenoon. At two he dines with the royal family; and at four retires to his own apartments in the palace of Chriſtianſbourg, where perſons of all rank and conditions are admitted in their turn. The people promiſcouſly aſſemble in the antichambre, whence they are conducted one by one to the Prince, to whom they preſent in writing the particulars of their complaint, requeſt, &c. accompanied by a few words merely expreſſive of the contents, to which his Highneſs returns a ſhort anſwer, but not till he has

aſked ſuch queſtions as never fail to make him maſter of the ſubject; at the end of which he bows, which is the ſign to withdraw.

The levee cloſes at ſeven. The Prince then drinks tea in his own cloſet, the better to indulge the wiſh, which he has ſo frequently manifeſted, of tranſacting public buſineſs. It is alſo on this account that the Prince for ſome time paſt has denied himſelf the pleaſure of converſing with his royal ſiſter, (of whom he is remarkably fond), except on Sunday evenings, from eight to nine. This done, he reads petitions, on which he makes obſervations in the margin; after which he claſſes them according to the nature of the ſubject; and in this manner they are ſent to the ſecretaries of ſtate, whoſe departments are calculated to meet theſe claſſes. Supper is ready at nine, and at eleven all is quiet in the palace.

The Prince may be ſaid to keep no ſecretary, for he writes all his private letters with his own hand, ſuch alone excepted, which, according to

etiquette are only ſigned by his Royal Highneſs, and which are written by Marſhal Bulow*, whom the Prince honours with the execution of his commands and reſolutions, all of which are copied into a book by this gentleman; who, beſides, takes care of three purſes, being allotted to the management of the Prince for the encouragement of public ſpirit, arts and ſciences.

Notwithſtanding that the Prince divides his time thus regularly, yet the Daniſh muſes are not forgotten; and at no one period perhaps they did ever experience a ſincerer friend than the Prince; for as he is a real lover of his country and his native language, ſcarce an article is publiſhed in the Daniſh dominions that he does not read, from which he makes ſhort extracts; beſides the diſcourſe at table, to which a number of gentlemen are every day invited,

* John Bulow, Knight of the Orders of Dannebrog and the Polar Star, Privy Counſellor, and one of the Lords of His Daniſh Majeſty's Bed-chamber, Marſhal to his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Denmark, and Honorary Member of the Royal Academy.

turns on literary news and the merits of writers. To betray a want of knowledge on theſe occaſions would be mortifying indeed; hence an emulation of being acquainted with the beſt authors is inſpired.

I know it is whiſpered at Copenhagen, that neither MELPOMENE nor yet THALIA find favour in the Prince's eyes, but in this the public is rather miſtaken, as the charge is grounded on appearance only. The truth is, His Royal Highneſs patroniſes both, in proportion to their merit.

He only laments that the duty of his ſituation, and the preſſure of public affairs, do not permit him to indulge a more intimate acquaintance with the Aonian maids; and as a proof of his attachment to them, he has ſettled a liberal penſion on ſome of their votaries, which may enable them to ſtudy the chaſteſt of our actors.

As to the other branches of literature, it is certainly true, that he patroniſes both without partiality, as he is convinced, that one aſſiſts

and promotes the other; in conſequence of which, many works are ripened into maturity in the ſunſhine of Royal patronage alone, ſuch as the *Flora Danica* by *Vahl* * ; *Coquilage* of *Regenfus* † by *Chemnitz* ‡ and *Spengler* §; *The Scriptores Rerum Danicarum* by *Suhm* ‖ ; *The Deſcription of*

* Flora Danica repreſenting the whole vegetable kingdom of Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Greenland, North Feroe, and the Duchies of Sleſwic and Holſtein, was begun by O. Oeder and Otto Frederick Muller, and continued by Profeſſor Vahl. Of this very elegant work 15 volumes or faſciculi have already appeared; and a copy has been given gratis to every pariſh in both kingdoms, in order to be left by the rector to his ſucceſſor.

† This work generally eſteemed to be a chief d'œuvre of its kind was begun by Regenfus at the expence of Frederic V. father to His preſent Daniſh Majeſty.

‡ Chemnitz, D. D. Rector of the Garriſon's Church of Copenhagen, one of the firſt Conchiliologiſts of our times.

§ Laurence Spengler, Keeper of His Daniſh Majeſty's Muſeum, and Member of many learned Societies in Europe.

‖ This collection of the Daniſh Hiſtorians, from the earlieſt times till the fifteenth century, was begun by Jacob Langebeck a learned Dane, who died in 1777; but is continued by Peter Frederick Suhm. (See note, p. 8.) Of this work 6 volumes in folio have already appeared, and many more are to follow.

the King's Mint Cabinet* by *Meſſrs. Muller*†, *Nielſon*‡, *Spengler* and *Voſs*; a ſplendid edition of the *New Teſtament*, in Greek, by *Mr. Birch*; beſides a number of learned gentlemen, who have been ſent abroad to various parts of Europe to improve and enrich the literature of Denmark.

New ſocieties have likewiſe been formed, particularly one; whoſe object is, to promote the cultivation of natural philoſophy throughout the Daniſh dominions.

This ſociety has been peculiarly happy in the ſmiles of His Highneſs; a certain proof that he is convinced of its utility.

Copenhagen is the ſcene in which the Prince has as yet been viewed; but he is now to be

* The Mint and Medallic Cabinet, as far as it relates to Denmark, is very large. The plates already finiſhed repreſenting Coins and Medals, exceed two hundred plates in royal folio.

† FREDERICK ADAM MULLER, Counſellor of Conferences, and Chief of the Stamp-Office.

‡ GEORGE NIELSON, Counſellor of Conferences, Principal Librarian to the King.

conſidered on his travels from one province to another.

The true patriotic zeal, which directs and inſpires the conduct of the Prince at court, pervades with unabated warmth his excurſions throughout the various parts of Denmark, Norway, and Holſtein; for, in order to carry thoſe ſchemes into execution, which have been digeſted by the wiſeſt heads, and cheriſhed by the warmeſt hearts, in concert with his own, His Highneſs in his tour has thought proper to diſpenſe with all that pomp and ceremony, which he ſays at beſt are only calculated to attract the admiration of the unthinking, at the expence of time; which, in his opinion, is rather too precious a ſacrifice to a gratification at once ſo evaneſcent and idle; and which, in the end, ſinks the mind into a ſtate of ſupineneſs, from whence it is not eaſy to emerge.

On all occaſions the Prince is determined to ſee every thing with his own eyes; the manner, therefore, in which he travels, is as follows:

In order that he may obſerve the ſtate and cultivation of the country, he goes in an open landau; and that his company may be as little troubleſome to others, at the ſame time that it is agreeable to himſelf, he is accompanied only by MARSHALL BULOW, the conſtant friend and companion of his youth.

The Prince having once adopted the principles of a citizen, he is obſerved to be equally happy in the cottage of a peaſant as in the chateau of the nobleman. He converſes with both, liſtens with pleaſure to whatever they are pleaſed to advance, and avails himſelf of the beſt information and advice, equally precious to him, whether they flow from the lips of an Ariſtotle, clad in purple, or thoſe of a Diogenes', who was only attentive to the ornaments of his mind.

In diſcourſe with thoſe, whom providence has kindly ordained to ſlake their thirſt at the pureſt fountains, and whoſe content is wealth and poverty their guard, he never fails to impreſs them with the love of their own native

ſoil, and the importance of their own moral worth in the ſcale of empire and creation. He alſo recalls to their memory that juſt ſenſe of liberty, for which his countrymen at a former period were ſo highly celebrated; and what greater inſtance can be given of the truth of this aſſertion, than this: that ſince the preſent King of Denmark changed capital puniſhments into hard labour and impriſonment for life, crimes have decreaſed ninety per cent: as the Danes look on confinement, even of a ſhort duration, to be worſe than death itſelf. The Prince always enquires into the ſtate of the family, number of children, age, diſpoſition, and employment, but above all, what is the progreſs they have made at ſchool, in reading, writing, principles of the chriſtian religion, ſpinning, weaving, &c. The education of youth is his favourite object: and I myſelf have had the pleaſure of hearing His Royal Highneſs declare, that the happineſs of a nation depends entirely on the education of the ſubject:

as firſt principles are implanted in thoſe which expand in future manners, in proportion as they have taken root. For this purpoſe, new ſchools have been eſtabliſhed of late throughout every pariſh in the Daniſh dominions, where children are inſtructed in the firſt principles of religion, reading, writing, and domeſtic employments, at the expence of the crown; and for the purpoſe of exciting emulation amongſt the pupils, premiums, ſuitable to rank and age, are diſtributed; which are found to have an excellent effect*.

That theſe ſalutary ſtreams of practical knowledge may be conſtantly ſupplied, a ſeminary, which may be called the fountain of the reſt, is erected at BLAAEGAARD, a villa near the capital, where the children of ſoldiers of every regiment have their appropriated claſſes; and where every pariſh, throughout the whole kingdom, have

* Profeſſor SEVEL, previous to theſe ſettlements, was ſent abroad, in order to ſtudy the various modes of education throughout Europe, and to report his obſervations to a committee appointed for the of purpoſe laying down a plan for a fixed and regular eſtabliſhment.

ſome children, who are carefully educated in the principles of religion and virtue—the true baſis of our happineſs here and hereafter; and afterwards in whatever trade or buſineſs their inclination may lead them, viz. ſpinning, knitting, weaving, &c.

His R. Highneſs frequently viſits this abode of innocence and infantine induſtry, and goes thro' the different claſſes, which he never fails to reward in proportion to deſert. In like manner the Prince viſits the Orphan houſe, poor houſes, hoſpitals, &c. nay, the very gloom of the priſons are often brightened up with his preſence, ſo that even the very outcaſts of ſociety are not found beneath his notice.

The example of the Prince has extended its influence to others. Several perſons of rank and fortune are emulous to diſtinguiſh themſelves in the propagation of knowledge and liberty, by patronizing theſe divine purſuits.

The ſchools on the eſtates of Count JOHAN LUDVIC REVENTLOW of BRAHETROLLEBOURG,

yielded the Prince the higheſt pleaſure. Having examined theſe ſchools, he was pleaſed to addreſs his noble hoſt thus:

"Sir. May your zeal and mode, ſo well calculated for the inſtruction of youth, become univerſal throughout our native country. I have nothing more at heart, than that the riſing generation may receive an education from the earlieſt infancy, which may prove to them the richeſt ſource of happineſs throughout their lives."

The Prince moreover pays a great attention to cleanlineſs, which he conceives to be of as much importance to the body, as knowledge to the mind; or as our favourite Poet beautifully expreſſes it,

> Ev'n from the body's purity, the mind
> Receives a ſecret ſympathetic aid.

And, in order to ſet the example, he is always plain and neat himſelf. It is ſolely on this account, that he has aboliſhed the uſe of hair-powder and pomatum amongſt the army, as a

ſource of filth and diſorders amongſt the common men; whoſe health and good ſpirits he is anxious on every occaſion to cheriſh and ſupport, even at the expence of perſonal fatigue. A greater proof perhaps of this cannot be adduced, than the ſhare, which he takes with them in all the hardſhips incident to military life. For, he has been ſeen to exerciſe the troops from an early hour in the morning, till the evening ſpread her lateſt ſhades; march at their head as one of themſelves; ſuffer the extremes of heat and cold; take up his abode at night with them under the chilly autumn air. During his campaign in Sweden, he might be ſaid to court enterprize, and to forget, that danger exiſted always in the front of battle, when he was not engaged in viſiting the ſick and wounded, and allaying the feveriſh heat of the one with the cooling draft, or binding the other with balmy fingers. Friends and foes were alike to him in that ſituation.

Thoſe that were preſent at that critical period are at a loſs to point out, what is moſt praiſeworthy in his R. Highneſs: his courage tempered with magnanimity, or his humanity. As a friend to mankind he left Sweden, and preferred the peace and happineſs of two rival nations, to thoſe laurels, which the God of war held ready in his hand to encircle his brows.

The haſty outlines of the Prince's public character being given, ſome obſervations on his private, as far as well known, may not be thought ſuperfluous.

In every part of his life, his R. Highneſs ſeems to be actuated by an univerſal ſpirit of benevolence, from the love and profound reſpect he bears towards his father; which ſhews the ſacred manner, in which he holds the divine ties, which nature intended ſhould ſubſiſt betwixt parents and their offspring. He is remarkably fond of his Royal ſiſter, the amiable conſort of the Duke of Holstein Augustenburgh, on account of their near kindred, and that uncommon ſhare of

good ſenſe, exquiſite taſte and politeneſs, which have fallen to the lot of that affable Princeſs.

In the choice of friends, the Prince is cautious and prudent, but when choſen, they are ſure to experience all that warmth and firmneſs, which the moſt generous heart can boaſt. In conſequence of which he never fails to viſit his friends in perſon, when confined by illneſs. Thus he has been known frequently to tender his perſonal ſervices to their Excellencies, Counts, BERNSTORFF, SCHACH RATHLOU*, TOTT†, miniſters of State, General HUTH‡, and Chevalier BULOW, his R. Highneſs' marſhal.

In company with the fair ſex, he never exceeds the boundaries preſcribed by the ſtricteſt

* OTTO SCHACH RATHLOU, Knight of the order of the Elephant, and Privy Counſellor, has now retired on his Eſtate.

† Count OTTO TOTT died in the year 1785.

‡ WILHELM HUTH, Knight of the order of the Elephant, Miniſter of State, General of the Infantry; a man to whom it may be applied, with the ſtricteſt truth, what the Roman Hiſtorian ſaid of Marc. Porcius Cato, that in whatever country he had happened to have been born, his abilities muſt neceſſarily have raiſed him to the firſt dignities of the State.

delicacy. In public converſation, as well as in private, he is always obſerved to maintain a graceful modeſty and reſerve. He liſtens with attention to every perſon that ſpeaks, and when done, advances his opinion with diffidence, and always in few words, founded on reaſon, and ſupported by a cool and deliberate premeditation, in a manner which captivates every one, who hears him. And thus his affability and condeſcenſion, like the milder rays of the ſun, inſtead of diminiſhing his luſtre ſerves to kindle the hearts of men with the ſtrongeſt reſpect and love—which is increaſed, if poſſible, by his manly height and well-proportioned ſtrength of body, the dignity of his aſpect and the ſound health which he enjoys in the pride of his years.

The Prince, (as all Princes ſhould), looks on his promiſe to be ſacred, the reſult of which is, that it is always attended with the moſt punctual diſcharge; for which reaſon his humanity often puts him to a greater expence than his pecuniary circumſtances may be ſuppoſed to

afford; for it does not unfrequently happen, that he has taken upon himſelf to maintain thoſe, whoſe income has been ruined by unforeſeen accidents, ſuch as neither induſtry nor prudence could foreſee, nor yet avert. One inſtance of the many may prove this.

" A miller in Jutland had contracted with government for a certain quantity of flour, to be delivered in a limited time. Scarce was the bargain concluded, when the price roſe, contrary to the expectation of every perſon, to an uncommon height: the Lords of the Exchequer inſiſted on the terms of the contract; in ſhort the man was ruined, and had no reſource but to implore the interference of the Prince in his behalf. His Highneſs took care, to enquire into the ſubject, and on finding, that the miller bore a good character, he ſent for him and ſpoke to him thus: " The laws enjoin, that a civil con-
" tract ſhall be fulfilled, and leave it not in my
" power to interpoſe; the law of the land muſt
" have its courſe: all that I can do, is to relieve

" your family in ſuch a manner, as to ſecure " them from indigency, and to enable you " once more to perſevere in your induſtrious " pur ſuits, as a good citizen." Guided by theſe principles, His Royal Highneſs releaſed twenty-nine unfortunate debtors immured in the jail of Copenhagen, and reſtored them to their wives, children, friends and ſociety, on the fourteenth of September, the day, that he made his public entry into that metropolis in company with his Royal conſort, for the firſt time. Beſides his R. Highneſs annually* pays a conſiderable ſum to literary perſons and young men of promiſing talents at home and abroad†.

* Mr. CONSET, in his travels, ſpeaks in very high terms of His Royal Highneſs's liberality towards the Literati.

† Amongſt theſe was the late Profeſſor PAULSEN, who travelled into Norway, at the expence of his Royal Maſter, for the laudable purpoſe of cheriſhing that peculiar genius, which he diſcovered even in infancy for landſcape painting, than which perhaps no place could furniſh him with finer views, than the ſhapeleſs rocks, hanging mountains, and woody theatre, of a country, interſected with caſcades and water-falls, ſome of which are little inferior to the famous Niagara——in all of which Nature wantons in her

Nor is the honeſt but indigent handicraft excluded from his royal bounty: witneſs the China manufacture eſtabliſhed at Copenhagen, which has lately received the moſt flattering marks of the Prince's favour. He has ordered a Table ſervice to be made; the ſet is to repreſent the entire Flora Danica painted after nature. The diſhes are to be ornamented with a complete ſeries of all the herbs growing in the Daniſh dominions, arranged after the claſſification of the immortal

prime. This artiſt may be ſaid to be the ſame in painting, what Shakeſpear was in poetry. The apartments of the Prince in Frederickberg, near Copenhagen, boaſt the magic of that pencil, which the hand of death arreſted in the meridian of its power. His fate will be long lamented, and in addition to this irreparable loſs, the engraving in colours, invented by PAULSEN, is alſo ſtopped, and the effect of an annuity, which the Prince ſettled on him for the purpoſe of ſupporting promiſing pupils, who ſhould diſcover an aptitude to imbibe the emanation of his powers.

What, however the Norwegian Diana has loſt in the death of this admired genius, the Daniſh Dryads have in ſome meaſure repaired in Mr. BRADT, a landſcape painter, who, under the auſpices of His Royal Highneſs, has ſet out on a picturesque journey, through the Iſlands of which the Daniſh empire is compoſed: the views thus taken are to be engraved in copper.

Linnæus: together with the names in Latin and Daniſh—the baſkets repreſent the flowers; and the figures, the various dreſſes, worn by the peaſants of Denmark and Norway. And in order to fan the ſparks of emulation amongſt the people, whoſe chief employments are huſbandry and manufactures, he exerts all his intereſt, to promote the patriotic and benevolent views of the œconomical ſociety eſtabliſhed at Copenhagen, on the Royal authority, and of which he is the Patron.

One of his methods in particular is truly exemplary, which is to order pamphlets moral and ſcientific, publiſhed at his own expence, to be diſtributed among the third claſs of the inhabitants of Denmark and Norway. Theſe are the amuſements in which he finds himſelf moſt happy, to which may be added muſic and dancing. In conſequence of which he frequently appears at balls, both at thoſe given every fourth night at court, and thoſe kept up by ſubſcrip-

tion of the citizens where he dances as one of themſelves. He is never ſeen to play at cards, or mix in any amuſement, which did not tend either to the improvement of his mind or health. In ſhort, the conduct of this Prince is ſtamped with that conſiſtency of behaviour, which enables him to purſue with unremitting zeal, the prudent and benevolent ſchemes, which he has planned for the benefit of his grateful country. And if any thing is wanting to complete his character, his late matrimonial choice crowns it. The Princeſs, whom he has choſen, is amiable; the goodneſs of her heart is only equalled by the charms of her perſon—thoſe charms were ſeen, known and fixed on by the Prince himſelf, ſo that the union is the reſult of mutual paſſion, improved by a long acquaintance.

The Daniſh nation muſt experience the beſt effects under the benignity of a Princeſs, adored by all, who have the happineſs of

approaching her. Hence the general wiſh,

" Their nuptial bed may ſmiling concord dreſs,
" And VENUS ſtill the happy union bleſs!
" Wrinkled with age, may nuptial love and truth
" To their dim eyes recal the bloom of youth."

FAREWEL.

LETTER II.

DEAR SIR,

I CAN eaſily perceive your uneaſineſs on account of your favourite NINE, from on opinion I preſume, that the attachment, which the Prince of Denmark on all occaſions evinces to the Military Sciences, muſt be ominous to the reſt—that is, if I underſtand you right, that the Arts and Sciences were never deſtined to flouriſh in the Empire of Vulcan and Mars.

I ſhall not diſpute this point at preſent, tho' much might be advanced from ancient and even modern times, to ſhew that the "Siſters of the ſacred Well" have not always been frightened from their hallowed haunts by the voice of Bellona, but, on the contrary, that their intereſt

has been promoted and protected by the very hand, that let loose the banners of blood. You may produce Sparta, it is true; whence all, that could refine the tone of elegance, was exiled, and that too by a common law. At the same time, I hope, you will not forget Athens, where the smiles of the Graces reflected lustre on the spear of the warrior; where bravery and learning were so blended together, that succeeding ages cannot sufficiently admire the happiness of the combination; and so convinced were the ancients of the necessity of cultivating the arts of war and peace jointly, that they represented Minerva in arms, and what could they mean by investing her armed statue with the fate of Troy, but this, that its empire would decline and be destroyed, whenever the Trojans should either grow effeminate and cultivate the arts of peace alone, or dedicate themselves wholly to arms, without respect to the polite sciences and belles lettres. The polite arts never shown brighter than in those days when the field of Marathon

and the Coaſt of Salamis were immortalized by heroes, who, fluſhed with that ſpirit of liberty and independence, which ariſe from a ſentiment of conſcious merit, have handed down to poſterity, the moſt illuſtrious monuments of unrivalled bravery and refined taſte.

And to come ſtill nearer home; when did even Gallia ſhine brighter in the annals of literature than in the days of Louis XIV. that ambitious monarch, who, whilſt he carried deſtruction in one hand, was not leſs anxious to cultivate the arts of peace with the other.

But why do we ſeek for great examples abroad, while we have ſo many proofs at home. What country has ever been a more illuſtrious mother and nurſe of heroes and philoſophers, than our own? where has the union of Mars and Minerva been cloſer? Indeed the warlike genius of our nation never interfered with the ſublime and beautiful: courage and learning have been equally cheriſhed in the boſom of liberty. Milton, the greateſt prodigy of mor-

tals, inferior to Homer only in age, was born and bred in the reign of Mars,

" And ſpread Great-Britain's name o'er land and ſeas,
" Whatever clime the ſun's bright circle warms."

Contemporories of MARLBOROUGH, the modern Q. FABIUS MAXIMUS, were NEWTON, within whoſe comprehenſive genius the univerſe firſt found its limits; and POPE, whoſe chaſte muſe was the daughter of Philoſophy and the Graces; who would, if he had lived in ancient Greece, had a temple erected to his memory.

With reſpect to Denmark, I ſhall only beg leave to remind you of what you already know, that this country, which has given birth to a great number of heroes, has ever delighted in bedewing the laurel, which encircles the brow of the warrior, with the " melodious tears" of Helicon.

The poems of RAGNAR LODBROK, the Scandinavian Tyrtæus, are equal to his bravery*;

* Among theſe is the Death Song of RAGNAR LODBROK, King of Denmark, publiſhed by the Rev. JAMES JOHNSTONE. Copenhagen, 1783, 12mo. and by CHRIST.

and the poem of BODWAR BIARKA, a bard and hero at the court of HROLF KRAKA, ſo admirably tranſlated by SAXO GRAMMATICUS*, the ornament of the martial reign of WALDEMAR the Firſt, challenges the ſtricteſt examination of taſte and genius.—What has been in former ages may happen again, and it by no means follows, that, becauſe his Royal Highneſs has taken upon himſelf the arduous taſk of reſtoring to his beloved people that generous ſpirit and diſcipline, which have ſo often won the glories of the well-conteſted field†. Literature and

ADOLPH KLOTZ in a Collection of Warlike Songs annexed to TYRTÆI Carmina. Altenburgi, 1763, 8vo. with cuts.

* See Saxo Grammatic. Hiſt. Dan. Libr. II. & Snorro Sturleſon's Hiſtory of Norway, 2 Vol. p. 347.

† Nothing can be a ſtronger proof of this aſſertion, than a letter of Queen Anne to Frederick IV. King of Denmark, wherein Her Majeſty congratulates him on account of that unrivalled bravery and diſcipline which the Daniſh troops, ſent to her aſſiſtance, had ſhewn on all occaſions under the Britiſh Banners.—See Er. Pontoppidani Veſtigia Danorum extra Daniam.

To which may be added the following inſcription under a portrait placed in the great room of the Royal Regiment of Artillery at Woolwich:

ſciences are at preſent not neglected in Denmark, and the Danes are far from being ſtrangers to the divine influence of Minerva. The Prince has fully ſhewn, that he is not inſenſible of what conſtitutes not only the real honour, but the happineſs of his country; and that, notwithſtanding he devotes much of his time to the diſcipline of his troops, in the end it will be found equally divided betwixt your Par-

Lieutenant General ALBERT BORGARD,
Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Artillery,
Of an ancient and honourable family in Denmark.

He began his military career in the Age of 16, *in the Year* 1675, *in the army of his Sovereign, at that time at war with Sweden, firſt as Cadet, then as Enſign in the Queen's Regiment of Foot. Anno.* 1692 *he came into the Britiſh ſervice under the auſpices of King William, was perſonally engaged in* 18 *battles, and* 24 *Sieges, and, covered with wounds, finiſhed a life full of years and honour, Feb.* 7, 1751, *aged* 92.

To the conſpicuous talents of this gallant officer, Great Britain ſtands indebted for having reduced to a regular ſyſtem the ſcience and the ſervice of artillery, as alſo for reformation and eſtabliſhment of the Regiment.

The officers of that Corps from the great reſpect they bear to his diſtinguiſhed valour and abilities, have cauſed this portrait taken from an original painting, to be placed in this military repoſitory to his memory. A. D. 1785.

naſſian favourities, and the ſons of Thor*. His Royal Highneſs has entered at large into the views of his father, which he follows up with an ardour, that borders on enthuſiaſm. Under theſe auſpicious beams, we ſee the *Flora Danica* expand and flouriſh, and Profeſſor VAHL enrich the Botanical garden of Charloteſburgh with new treaſures collected on his travels through Norway, Spain, and various parts of Africa, all of which have been deſcribed and publiſhed in his *Botanical Tour*.——To explore the natural kingdom of Iceland and the Feroe Iſlands Mr. NICOLAI MOORE has been delegated—and the Chevalier LÖVENORN, in company with Meſſrs. ROTHE, EGEDE, and SNEDORPH, have been ſent to Greenland in order to reſtore, if poſſible, to Europe, the coaſt of that immenſe continent, which a colony from Iceland had inhabited till the fourteenth century. The work of SHELLS, which REGENFUSS had begun with ſo happy imitation of Nature, that art might be

* The God of War.

ſaid to rival her in that reſpect, is now continued by the Rev. JOHN HEINRICH CHEMNIZ, the firſt conchyliologiſt of our age, and LAURENCE SPENGLER, keeper of his Majeſty's muſeum, a gentleman highly eſteemed for his extenſive knowledge, and, what is better, univerſal philanthropy.

But whilſt Natural Philoſophy feels the foſtering ray, cultivated by a ſociety of men, whoſe patient reſearches and ingenuity, can be only equalled by their amor patriæ, Hiſtory is not left to ſay, that ſhe, that has embalmed the memory of others, is forgotten herſelf. The SCRIPTORES RERUM DANICARUM, of which the ſeventh volume will ſoon appear, is an undertaking which in point of correctneſs and elegance may vie, nay excel MURATORI's. This, of courſe, muſt reflect honour on the Editors LANGEBECK and SUHM. Beſides the Prince, fully convinced of the utility of Coins and Medals, with regard to hiſtory, has patroniſed a deſcription of the Royal Cabinet, viz. that

part which contains the Daniſh Coins from the earlieſt period to the preſent. This work (of which more than two hundred plates, in royal folio, are already finiſhed) is ſuperintended by men of the firſt ſcience in Denmark, viz. Chamberlain SUHM, Privy Counſellors NIELSON, MULLER, and Mr. SPENGLER. When it is compleated, it will perhaps be needleſs to ſay, that it may be claſſed with the firſt national honour.

The Medallic Cabinet is truly grand, and that part perhaps, which contains the Daniſh and Norwegian Coins, is equal to any in Europe; it is kept in the Caſtle of ROSENBURG, and arrainged in the beſt order to meet the public eye; but liberal as this is, the Survey of Denmark and Norway, which is carried on with unremitting ſpirit at the expence of the royal purſe, upon trigonometrical principles, under the direction of Meſſrs. BUGGE and MORVILLE, cannot fail of contributing highly to the extenſion of trade and navigation.

The Maps of Denmark already publiſhed are looked on by the cognoſcenti as the beſt in every reſpect. The Coaſt of Iceland has likewiſe been moſt exactly ſurveyed, and an Atlas has been publiſhed under the care of Chevalier LÖVENORN, as director of the archives, which contain the Nautical Maps belonging to the Royal Navy: an inſtitution eſtabliſhed under the patronage of His Royal Highneſs.

Every undertaking, which his Royal Highneſs cheriſhes has proved equally ſucceſsful and beneficial to the public, if we except that concerning the late painter PAULSEN, whom I have mentioned in my former Letter.

In order that the public may derive every advantage from the literary treaſures belonging to the King, his Majeſty with the advice of his ſon has given orders to purchaſe a copy of every book publiſhed in the Daniſh dominions from the earlieſt to the preſent period. A price is paid in proportion to the ſcarceneſs of the work. And a premium in addition, to thoſe, who point out the proprietor of the ſame, ſo that he may be

treated with. A collection of Manuscripts is also forming, together with the best books and prints annually published in Europe. In order to accomplish this desirable object, Dr. Moldenhawer, the present librarian, made two travels into Spain in order to study the literary history of a country so little known with that respect although so highly deserving. The collection at present of Spanish and Portuguese books is very extensive; the English and French complete; and the Palæotypa, or early printed books, considerably increased under the will of the late Count Tott, who left his collection of printed books anterior to 1520 to the King: and which the deceased had made from 1728 to 1784 with an assiduity almost incredible. I must not forget to tell you, that the library is open every day (except on Sundays) to the public, and a room set on part, warm in winter, for the accommodation of visitants; and books are lent out to known characters, nay even manuscripts, which, in my opinion, is rather hazardous. So you think with me, that a support so liberal to the sciences

muſt operate as a powerful example on others: ſo it does. The King's brother, His Royal Highneſs Prince FREDERICK is warm in the ſupport of the Arts. With a munificence that would do honour to a Prince of a ſuperior fortune, he has, at his own expence, cauſed to be publiſhed SNORRO STURLESON'S Hiſtory of Norway and the neighbouring kingdoms up to the year 1263, in four volumes folio. Beſides he has encircled his villa at JÆGERSPRIS with monuments in marble by WIDEWELDT, to the memory of thoſe Danes, Norvegians, Icelanders, and Holſteners, who rendered their memory dear to their country. And that immortality may not be wanting, thoſe illuſtrious buſts are inſcribed by the inimitable pen of his Excellency Privy Counſellor OWE HOEGH GULDBERG, and the engravings of them are deſcribed by the pen of PETER TOPP WANDAL, the SHERIDAN of Denmark. Theſe monuments are publiſhed at the expence of the Prince*.

* The lives of thoſe men, who have been honoured with monuments erected in JÆGERSPRIS, by P. T. WANDAL. Copenh. 1783.

Let us ſympathize in the feelings of Count GRIFFENFELD, tried, and caſt in the laſt century for high treaſon, if from the realms of day he could ſee the monument of his innocence, the moſt conſpicuous at JÆGERSPRIS*.

Next to the Prince, I think I may place the Chamberlain SUHM, a man who has devoted his ample fortune to the benefit of the ſtate. His library contains about 120000 volumes of the beſt writers, annually enlarged. His collection of Manuſcripts is exceedingly large and precious, and among the reſt, there are all thoſe written by and in the poſſeſſion of that learned philologer REISCHE of LEIPZIC. Independent of this, the library of this truly patriotic nobleman is open to public conſultation ſix hours every day, and books are alſo lent out to readers of every deſcription. He alſo contributes in a manner the moſt liberal to the publication of books written by young men, and premiums are diſtributed by him to ſuch, as give the moſt

* See: Portraits Hiſtoriques des Hommes illuſtres de Dannemarrc, & Memoires de Comte de GRIFFENFELD, par T. de HOFFMAN. Paris & Londres, 1761.

diſtant hopes of genius; and, to crown the whole, he pays an annual ſalary to ſtudents from Iceland, for tranſlating the ancient writers of that country out of their native language into Latin. Many of theſe are already publiſhed at the expence of this Northern MÆCENAS.

Perhaps I ought to inform you that a legacy was left for this purpoſe in 1732, which ſince 1772 has been under the direction of ſix gentlemen, of the firſt literary eminence, under the title of the Arna Magnean Committee; who, with a ſecretary and two interpreters, are to publiſh ſucceſſively that immenſe hive, if I may uſe the expreſſion, of Northern literature collected by ARNAS MAGNUSON, an Icelander, under his travels through Europe, but more particularly in Iceland. Several ſpecimens have already appeared highly honourable to the liberal donor, and thoſe literati whom the King, in 1772, appointed for that purpoſe.

Beſides the King's GREAT LIBRARY, there are ſeveral other public libraries: viz. that of the Univerſity; of the Botanical Garden; the

Royal Academy. To which you may ſtill farther add, the well choſen libraries of the Board of Ordnance; the Naval Academy, and the Military School in Amulienburgh. There are many libraries beſides, which, though private with regard to property, are entirely at the ſervice of the public with reſpect to inſpection. The beſt, in my opinion of theſe are the following: firſt, that of his Excellency Owe Hoegh Guldberg, who, animated in the career of learning by the moſt patriotic ardour, has united in his writings, ſcience, genius, and taſte. His Univerſal Hiſtory is, perhaps, the fineſt monument of claſſical knowledge which our century has produced; and his Eſſay on the ſublime genius of our countryman, Milton, diſplays the trueſt delicacy of critical acumen.

Secondly, the libraries of his Excellency Count Bernstorff, Count Adam Gotlob Moltke, General Classen, Meſſrs Cordsen, Adam Muller, Uldahl the Daniſh Erskine, and Profeſſor Wandal. Thoſe of the Privy

Counſellors, Marſhal BULOW, HOLMSKIOLD, Meſſrs SPENGLER and BRUNICKE are compoſed of Natural Hiſtory. Farriery and animal œconomy, form that of Profeſſor ABELDGAARD. To the taſte and induſtry of this amiable character, DENMARK is indebted for a Farrier ſchool, perhaps the firſt in Europe; and a muſeum of comparative anatomical preparations of horſes and other animals, the ſubjects of his lectures.

It is not in books only that Dania exerts herſelf, collections are likewiſe formed of the productions of nature and art. The *Royal Muſeum*, you remember, was deſcribed by JACOBEUS, and LAURENZEN in the beginning of the preſent century. The additions it has received ſince that period, amount, at preſent, to twice as much, and will, at leaſt, fill two folio volumes, and afford an ample field for the tranſcendent abilities of Meſſrs SPENGLER, father and ſon, who are inveſted with the truſt of this ineſtimable treaſure. *The Muſeum* which is likely to be ſtill farther enriched with the mineral cabinet

of Privy Counſellor HOLMSKIOLD, the fineſt perhaps exiſting; being the fruit of many years perſeverance, and the moſt unabating and incredible expence in penſions, to perſons ſent on purpoſe to Ruſſia, Hungary, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Great-Britain, North Feroe, and Iceland, in order to collect whatever was rare in thoſe parts. The king has purchaſed the whole cabinet, and intends to make it public. For this end, a deſcription is preparing under the eye of the learned Collector himſelf, which, in point of exactneſs and critical taſte, bids fair to challenge every other in that line. The collection of the Univerſity, is only inferior to each of theſe Muſeums. It conſiſts of quadrupeds, birds, reptiles, and foſſils, arranged in the niceſt order, in a building 146 feet long, and 28 wide. The whole is a preſent worthy a King, and well entitled to the inſcription placed over the door: THEATRUM NATURE MUNIFICENTIA REGIS CONDITUM, A. C. M,DCC,LXXII. A more circumſtantial hiſ-

tory of this and other cabinets ſacred to nature, within the kingdom, you may learn from MORT. TRAN. BRUNICHE'S *Hiſtorical Introduction to the Progreſs of Natural Philoſophy* in Denmark, publiſhed at Copenhagen, 1782, in the vernacular language of the country. However I ought not to forget here, that the collection is conſtantly augmented by this learned gentleman, whoſe works * bear ample teſtimony to his extenſive knowledge.

Beſides the above mentioned Muſeums, which may be called *public*, we find a great number of private cabinets; of theſe, however, I ſhall only mention the moſt conſpicuous, and merely point out the favourite object of each. The repoſitory of curioſities belonging to Count MOLTKE boaſts the moſt valuable ſpecimens of ſhells and foſſils in the higheſt preſervation, and is only inferior in number to

* M. TR. BRUNNICKII Inſectologiæ Sælandicæ prodromus, 1761. Entomologia, 1764. Ornitologia Borealis, 1764. Ictiologia Maſſilienſis, 1768. Zoologiæ fundamenta, 1771. Mineralogia, 1777—8. Hiſtoria Literaturæ Danicæ Scientiar. Natural. 1783—8.

that of General CLASSEN, who, beſides the mineral kingdom, poſſeſſes models of all the engines, which do honour to the refinement of the preſent day. The collection of ſhells belonging to Profeſſor SPENGLER, is the proudeſt monument of his attachment to that ſcience. Here you find a ſeries of marine ſpoils, collected by the brave followers of the Britiſh Columbus, Capt. COOKE. The Cabinets of Chamberlain SUHM, and Mr. COLSMAN, are well ſtored with ancient armour, and other productions of art; a deſcription of which, would ſhed light on the Hiſtory of Handicrafts in the courſe of paſt centuries. Medals and coins have been collected by Meſſrs de HEMMER, KÖLLE, RYBERG and WINDMÖLE, with that ſucceſs, which ought to be the conſtant reward of great expence and public ſpirit. To theſe laſt collections, we may add that of his Excellency HOEGH GULDBERG, conſiſting of ancient coins and antiquities, chiefly Egyptian, Greek, and Roman, which have been lately made public by Profeſſor WIDEWELT, of the Royal Academy. The Cabinet of the late

Privy Counſellor HIELMSTIERNE is rich in coins, medals, pictures, and portraits, which illuſtrate the Scandinavian hiſtory, and which have been deſcribed by Mr. WEBER, under the inſpection of Chamberlain SUHM.

For the more immediate acquiſition of the end aimed at by the King and the Prince, ſocieties of learned men are not wanting in their exertions. The Univerſity of Copenhagen, at the head of which the Prince of AUGUSTENBOURGH preſides, has received an entire new form. Claſſical knowledge, founded on critical reading of the Greek and Latin authors, has ſucceeded to the arbitrary ſway of ſcholaſtic loquacity; and new branches of ſciences have been introduced, hitherto unknown to this ſeat of learning. Among theſe are, the uſeful chairs of Natural Hiſtory, Botany, Chymiſtry, Belles Letters, &c. And the Public Trials, to which the ſtudents annually ſubmit, are regulated in a manner, which at once excites the ſtrongeſt emu-

lation, and operates as the means of obtaining thoſe honourable diſtinctions and rewards, which are held out for that object. But, perhaps, the new regulations relative to Phyſic and Surgery, are not the leaſt important. Theſe ſciences had, till the year 1786, been united and jointly ſtudied under the ſtatutes granted for ages to the faculty of Phyſicians. A WORM, a BARTHOLIN, a STENO, a WINSLOW, a HENNINGS*, and a KÖLPIN†, had, at various periods, put it beyond a queſtion, that the anatomy of the human frame, as it is the nobleſt ſtudy, was entitled to the firſt attention, and, of courſe, ought to be treated by men only, who made it their peculiar ſtudy, and who were capable of purſuing it according to the laws of Philoſophy. Yet, ſtrange to tell, ſuch had been the power of prejudice long rooted, that ſurgery had not only been taught in con-

* WILLIAM HENNINGS, Director of the Anatomical Academy, Profeſſor of Anat. Phyſiol. and Chirurg.

† ALEXANDER KÖLPIN, Surgeon to the Royal Family, Profeſſor of Anatomy, &c.

junction with phyſic, as I ſaid before, but was moreover left to men, who conſtituted the Worſhipful Company of Barbers. Young WINSLOW*, (the grand nephew of the celebrated anatomiſt of that name) on his return from France, Great-Britain, and other parts of Europe, brought home every new diſcovery, and every regulation, which were adopted in theſe enlightened countries for the improvement of that ſcience. The manner ſo congenial to nature, in which anatomy is treated in England, ſtruck his philoſophic mind, and became his leading object, which he obtained at length, though not without ſome hard fought ſtruggles. The monument of his victory is brilliant—an Anatomical Academy, incorporated into a Political Body, independent of the Univerſity. Their Hall, one of the moſt elegant buildings, is ſituated near to the *Fre-*

* FREDERICH CHRISTIAN WINSLÖW, Profeſſor of Theoretical and Practical Surgery, firſt Surgeon to the Frederich's Hoſpital.

Frederich's Hoſpital, and that *of Lying-in Women*, two ſchools, from which the ſeveral counties have already been ſupplied with Surgeons of equal ſkill and probity. When I mention this circumſtance, I ought to tell you, that every county has, at length, got its own Phyſician; together with a Surgeon and an Apothecary, all regularly bred and appointed; the Surgeon by his Academy, with his Majeſty's conſent; and the other, in the like manner, by the Faculty of Phyſicians, under whoſe department the Apothecaries act, to prevent the ſale of bad or improper drugs: for as particular care has been taken by law, to keep the ſhops well ſtored with good and proper medicines, ſo it is criminal to ſell poiſon to any perſon, without a warrant from a member of the faculty. Before I leave the Univerſity, perhaps you may wiſh to know the various claſſes into which it is divided. Theſe are,

Firſt, Divinity, taught by Dr. Horneman, whoſe obſervations on Philo, the Jew, have

met with the higheſt eſteem; Dr. BALLE, the Biſhop of Copenhagen, equally beloved for his moderation, and admired for his lectures on revealed Religion; and Dr. MOLDENHAWER, with whoſe literary merit you are already well acquainted.

Secondly, The Law Faculty, filled by Meſſrs OBELITZ and NÖRREGAARD, to whom the Daniſh Juriſprudence is indebted for a preciſion and order which few other countries can boaſt.

Thirdly, The Faculty of Phyſicians, conſiſts of Dr. KRATZENSTEIN, who, beſides, fills the chair of Experimental Philoſophy; Dr. FRIIS ROTBÖLL, whoſe *Deſcriptio & Icones rariorum Plantarum*, Havn. 1773, and a Treatiſe on the Importance of Botany, publiſhed in 1783, you already poſſeſs and read, I know, with pleaſure; Dr. SAXTORPH, on whoſe Lectures *De Arte Obſtetricia*, the ſcience of Midwifery, is brought upon a level with the moſt approved ſchools in Europe; Dr. CALLESON, whoſe *Principles of*

Anatomy are adopted as a guide in many Univerſities on the Continent. With Dr. TODE you are better acquainted than I, therefore I have only to ſay, that while his *Treatiſe on the Venereal Diſeaſe*, and his periodical papers under the various titles of *Sundhed's Tidender*; *Sundhed's blade*; *Hygæa og Muſerne*; *Sundhed's Muſeum*; *Danſke Læge*; and *Medical annals* acquaint us with the climate, the phyſical mode of living, and preſerving health in Denmark, we are ſplendidly entertained with deep reſearches, ſerved up with abundance of good humour and attic wit; talents which his colleague, Dr. AASHEIM, poſſeſſes in a high degree.

Fourthly, The Philoſophical Faculty boaſt of the following gentlemen: Mr. A. KALL, Profeſſor of Hiſtory, whoſe *Elements of Univerſal Hiſtory* have been introduced into the ſchools of Denmark; Mr. BUGGE, Profeſſor of Aſtronomy and Mathematics, and Author of *Lectures on Mathematics*; *Aſtronomical obſervations* in

1781—83; and a *Deſcription of the Trigonometrical Survey of Denmark*, works highly eſteemed by the literati; Mr. N. KALL, Profeſſor of Oriental Languages, through whoſe alluring method of rendering the drieſt ſubjects intereſting and pleaſant; Eaſtern literature has gained many admirers, and bids fair to gain new ſtrength under Dr. ADELER, who, while at Rome, publiſhed the *Nummi Cufici ex Muſeo Borgiano Veletrenſi*; and afterwards, *an Account of his Travels through Germany, France, and Italy*; Mr. BÖRGE RYSBRIGHT, Profeſſor of Logic and Metaphyſics, whoſe *lectures* are an exact mirror of that enlightened underſtanding, which makes him always appear with a ſerene and placid mind; Mr. BADEN, Profeſſor of Belles Lettres. In the writings of this gentleman, the ſublime and beautiful have voluntarily united their powers; and his Latin and Daniſh Dictionary, fully ſhews to what preciſion two languages may be carried by an author, whoſe leading principle is an accurate choice of

words, and the united delicacy of ſentiment; of which, beſides, nothing can be a ſtronger proof, than his tranſlation of Tacitus. In addition to this, every claſs has its extraordinary Profeſſors, who, though they have no vote in the Academic Senate, may be conſidered, nevertheleſs, as the candidates of preferment, which is obtained only through literary merit; hence the nobleſt ſcene is thrown open to emulation, and he, that bears the prize, is called to fill the chair, as ſoon as death, or any other accident renders it vacant. From ſuch an aſſemblage of talents, what may not be expected? the moſt important places in the ſtate are frequently ornamented with thoſe conſtellations. Witneſs Dr. JANSON, the Vice Chancellor, whom the King has raiſed to the Mitre, as the firſt reward of his literature and piety; Doctor COLBIÖRNSEN, alſo late Profeſſor of Civil Law, in whoſe expanded boſom the public ſpirit of his anceſtors is happily united, with all that eaſe, diſcernment, and elegance of language, with

which MANSFIELD ſo often moulded the Senate, and illumined the page of Law—talents which cannot fail to render him the boaſt of the Exchequer, where he has a ſeat amongſt the Lords.

Next after the Univerſity I think I may juſtly place the Royal Society of Sciences, under the preſidency of his Excellency the truly patriotic Count BERNSTORFF, aſſiſted by CHRISTIAN FRIDERICK JACOBI, Counſellor of Conferences, as perpetual Secretary. The ſociety conſiſts, as moſt other ſocieties do, of honorary Members and Fellows. Among the former we find Princes, Miniſters of State, and men whoſe names will encreaſe in ſplendor, with the encreaſe of centuries, and become adored in the ſame proportion as their public ſpirit and diſcoveries gain the attention of poſterity, which they deſerve. Thus our Sir JOSEPH BANKS; the Swiſs CHARLES BONNET; D'ALEMBERT; and EULER, do honour to this learned body.

It is needleſs to recal to your memory, the important ſervices, which this ſociety has ren-

dered to the literary world. I know you poſſeſs the Travels of Captain NORDEN, in Egypt, and thoſe publiſhed by Mr. NIEBUHR through Arabia, and other parts of Aſia; and I am ſure, you will agree with me, that a ſociety, who protected theſe gentlemen, and promoted the publication of their reſearches, deſerves no ſmall encomium.

The activity, however, of the ſociety is more conſpicuous in their own tranſactions; of theſe twelve volumes in quarto, have already appeared, augmented with four other volumes of their new tranſactions. To which we may add a ſeparate volume, containing intereſting treatiſes, which have been written according to annual invitations, publiſhed by the ſociety, and crowned with the propoſed rewards: for you muſt know, that in order to diffuſe a general emulation of cultivating ſciences throughout the kingdom, nay, even abroad, various premiums are offered to thoſe, who, not being members of the ſociety, ſend in the moſt ſatis-

factory anſwers to their queries, relative to important matters, in various branches of Philoſophy. In ſhort, this ſociety is framed upon the ſame principles, as the Royal Societies of London and Paris, and the fund by which it is ſupported, has been given by the King, its patron; for which reaſon literary talents are the ſole guide to the honour of becoming a member of a ſociety, whoſe door is ſhut to the golden key.

While the Royal Soicety is thus engaged in rewarding merit, and ſpreading knowledge throughout the kingdom, another ſociety, patronized by his Majeſty, is not leſs active in illuſtrating the Scandinavian Hiſtory, and promoting the culture of the Daniſh language.

Since the death of LANGEBECK and LUXDORPH, the management of this ſociety could not devolve into better hands, than thoſe of Lord Chamberlain SUHM, whoſe love of the Northern hiſtory and antiquities, borders on enthuſiaſm, and has been happily diſplayed

throughout his Hiſtory of Denmark, in thirteen volumes quarto.

The members of this ſociety are, by their ſtatutes limited to the number of ſix, beſides a ſecretary; and their tranſactions, conſiſting of ſix volumes, quarto, under the title of the *Daniſh Magazine* contain ſuch points of the Daniſh Hiſtory, as required the moſt critical, and the moſt exact enquiry. Though I have already mentioned the ARNA-MAGNEAN COMMITTEE, incorporated by the King, on the 24th of September, 1772, yet as it is ſo near related to the laſt named ſociety, both with reſpect to its object and internal regulation, I cannot help repeating it in this place, and adding to my former account, ſome circumſtances which may enable you to form a more competent idea of the inſtitution. You know, that whatever has been handed down to us with reſpect to the affairs of Scandinavia, from the days of Tacitus, to the fourteenth

century, is recorded by the ancient Icelanders. Theſe people having built their republic on the knowledge and experience of former ages, were anxious to improve their conſtitution, with the cuſtoms, laws, and manners of their neighbours, as far as theſe could be found applicable to their own; and in order to draw uſeful information from every quarter, they travelled abroad; ſtudied in England, France, and Germany; ſerved in the armies of foreign Princes; and extended their active trade even to the Mediterranean. He, who on his return home gave the moſt ſatisfactory account of his travels to the General Aſſembly, was ſure of being noticed and preferred. This was the caſe with SNORRO STURLESON, the author of the Hiſtory of Norway, and others, whoſe works are written with equal truth and elegance. Theſe are the writings, which ſtill abridge the long winter nights in Iceland; for no ſooner is the ſhort lived day fled, than the whole family ſeat themſelves down in a circle, and liſten to the maſter, who,

from a chair in the centre, recites the valour of their anceſtors. This cuſtom being general throughout the iſland, the conſumption of manuſcripts muſt be great, and the tranſcription very frequent, a circumſtance which renders the copies liable to alterations, omiſſions, &c. in the ſame degree as the writer is more or leſs exact. ARNAS MAGNUSON, a native, conſidered this, and conceived, that a collection of the whole (from which correct editions might in time ſucceed) would be the beſt method of guarding againſt thoſe changes of the pen; he, therefore, ſet out on a tour through Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Iceland, and brought together a great collection of manuſcripts, conſiſting of Hiſtory and Law, the greateſt part on vellum; beſides many thouſand original Charters, all relating to the three Northern kingdoms.

The great care and unremitting perſeveranee, however, with which the patriotic Collector endeavoured to preſerve theſe invaluable ſpoils of time, had nearly proved fatal to his favourite

deſign. The fire of Copenhagen, which happened in 1728, involved in one common ruin, the ſanctuaries of the Muſes, public as well as private; and the literary labours of centuries, fell a ſacrifice to this accident: a circumſtance which much enhanced the value of whatever eſcaped the mournful wreck. The public ſuſtained a dreadful loſs, which to compenſate in every poſſible degree, was, undoubtedly, the duty of every good citizen. Under the impreſſion of this exemplary idea, MAGNUSON, in 1732, bequeathed to the Univerſity of Copenhagen, the remainder of his library, conſiſting of 1761 volumes of manuſcripts, and ſeveral thouſand original charters, beſides a conſiderable number of ſcarce and early printed books, and in order to guard the better in future againſt all unforeſeen accidents, he gave four thouſand pounds in money, the intereſt of which was to be applied in publiſhing theſe rare treaſures of antiquity. The generous donor paid the debt of nature in a ſhort time after, and, we are ſorry

to ſay, that little was done till the juſtly celebrated Biſhop PONTOPPIDAN was appointed Vice Chancellor of the Univerſity. His ardent zeal for the improvement of literature and diffuſion of ſcience in Denmark is well known. He directed the legacy to its proper object; but it was reſerved for the late Privy Counſellor LUXDORPF, to carry the intent of the teſtator beyond the moſt ſanguine wiſhes, that could have attended it. In 1772, this amiable Nobleman, Chamberlain SUHM, and four other Gentlemen, were appointed truſtees of the legacy; and at the ſame time, the King enjoined the ſtricteſt orders to begin the publication of the manuſcripts, and continue till every one of them were brought to light.

The works already publiſhed, do honour to the firſt literary characters in Denmark, and may be looked on as the pureſt ſtandard of refined taſte, genius, and learning.

While the general Hiſtory of the Northern Kingdoms was thus cheriſhed and promoted, a rumour prevailed, that the lives of eminent

men, who, on this ſide the grave, had been the ornament of their country, were leſs regarded, than ought to be. The Court liſtened with pleaſure to theſe remarks, and gave the moſt flattering countenance to the infant wiſhes of a private ſociety, who, for their own amuſement, had hitherto made Biography their ſtudy. Privy Counſellor O. Hoegh Guldberg, the warmeſt friend of polite arts and literature, then at the head of ſtate affairs, prevailed on Mr. Owe Malling to draw the moral characters of thoſe Danes, Norwegians, Icelanders, and Holſteners, whoſe patriotiſm, and domeſtic virtues were found to be truly worthy of the emulation of poſterity, and ought to be embalmed in tears of gratitude, and ſhine for ever in the page of Hiſtory. The ſtyle in which this work is written, is not leſs remarkable for an accurate choice of words, than a delicacy of ſentiment, almoſt peculiar to that writer, at once calculated to delight and improve. This publication is entitled, *The great and good actions of Danes, Norwegians, Icelanders, and Holſteners.* It has been

made a ſchool book throughout the Daniſh dominions. The ſignal was now given, and a *Daniſh and Norwegian Society of Heraldry and Biography*, was inſtituted under the patronage of the King, who granted them free acceſs to his archives, public paper offices, and records, without even the ſmalleſt fee, in order that they might peruſe them. Since 1776 this learned body has publiſhed a *Biographical and Heraldical Dictionary of Denmark*, continued to the letter L. beſides a *Magazine of Anecdotes*, each embelliſhed with a great number of engravings.

The ſociety for the encouragement of Agriculture, Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, was incorporated by the King in 1769, on the principles, which diſtinguiſh thoſe of London and Dublin. Mr. MARTIN HUBNER* made,

* The author of a book, entitled *De la Saiſie des Batimens Neutres*, a la Haye, 1749, 2 tom. A work, which I am confidently aſſured gave birth to the armed neutrality, began by the late King of Pruſſia, and carried into execution by the Empreſs of Ruſſia, with that ſucceſs, which crowns the generality of her undertakings.

during his reſidence in England, the moſt minute enquiry into the conſtitution of the country. As a member of the London ſociety, he had the beſt opportunity of gratifying his curioſity with every thing that related to Agriculture, Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, the objects of that highly reſpectable body. Fully convinced of the importance and neceſſity of ſuch an eſtabliſhment in his native country, on his return he ſpaired no pains to accompliſh a wiſh, that originated in the pureſt patriotiſm. Mr. MARTFELT at the very inſtant came to his aid. This gentleman had juſt arrived from Ireland, where he had travelled under the patronage of Mr. RYBERG, a merchant of Copenhagen, whoſe enterprizing mind, benevolence, and love of country, tranſported far him beyond the limits of every ſelfiſh conſideration. In ſhort, the ſociety was formed by theſe duumviri on a plan, laid down by themſelves, in a moment, that would ſeem propi-

tious to national welfare: ſuch is the ſucceſs that has attended this inſtitution.

The PRINCE ROYAL of Denmark is Preſident of this Society, and has entered into the ſpirit of it with a zeal and activity, peculiar to himſelf: his example is followed by all claſſes. In the liſt of contributing members, the moſt exalted rank, character, and fortune, are emulous of appearing in that roll; and, that the diviner influence of beauty may not be wanting, we alſo meet with the names of ſeveral ladies in it. The method adopted by this enlightened body, of enlarging the bounds of knowledge, and promoting the common good, is divided between premiums for *theoretical* eſſays, and rewards for *practical* efforts attended with ſucceſs. The eſſays crowned with the approbation of the Society, are printed, and diſtributed in every pariſh throughout the kingdom by means of the Rector, accompanied with a ſhort account of the practical claſs, viz. that which has been gained, and that propoſed for

the year next following. The premiums vary according to the choice of the ſucceſsful candidate. A wealthy citizen receives a gold or ſilver medal, when a peaſant generally prefers the ſum of 20l. or the half thereof, in proportion to his merit. The premiums are diſtributed by the Royal Preſident himſelf, accompanied by a ſhort but pointed ſpeech to the ſucceſsful candidate;—a circumſtance which operates on the minds of men with the moſt powerful effect. To be known to the Heir Apparent of two kingdoms, is a wiſh which every body entertains; to obtain it in a manner ſo honourable, muſt be highly gratifying. I myſelf have had frequent opportunities of witneſſing, that the honour of being received and commended by the Prince, in his captivating manner, has far outweighed with the humble ſons of CERES all the alluring gifts of PLUTUS. From this Society a great number of others have ariſen: almoſt every county has one or more for the ſame purpoſe, regulated by ſimi-

lar laws. However, the quality of the premiums in ſome places differs: thus, in Norway, where BÆRENS ANCKER, the favourite ſon of the Graces, is at the head of his patriotic countrymen, the rewards of merit are medals worn on the breaſt, ſuſpended by a ribband; or a ſilver tankard, ornamented with a public inſcription, holding to view the manner in which it was acquired, and which ſerves to excite poſterity to emulation and virtue. Even Iceland has not been forgotten. This long neglected iſland, ſhe that ſhone ſo bright in the annals of remoter times, once more under the auſpices of two Princes, the ſon and brother of the King, begins to rear her drooping head. The *Society of Icelandic Literature*, eſtabliſhed by a Royal charter, have already publiſhed nine volumes, replete with thoſe ſubjects which are beſt calculated to improve the country people. The whole is written in the Icelandic, interwoven with ſeveral tranſlations into that tongue, of the beſt publications in Engliſh, French,

German, and Daniſh; which are diſtributed gratis to the inhabitants at the expence of the Royal Family, and in part at that of the Society. Beſides the laudable exertions of the Court to raiſe and cheriſh the arts to that ſublimity to which they once attained, when WORMIUS, the BARTHOLINS, and BORCH, better known under the name of BORICHIUS, led the literary van, the Royal Family are anxious to collect whatever may grace and improve the nation. For this purpoſe, ſeveral gentlemen of known and approved talents are ſent abroad at the public expence, ſome to Italy, ſome to France, others to Germany and Great Britain. Hence it is that theſe literary meſſengers have brought home with them thoſe tender plants of Philoſophy and Natural Hiſtory, which already begin to adorn their native country. The many advantages which Great Britain derives from the cultivation of theſe ſtudies, under the patronage of GEORGE the Third and the Preſident of the Royal Society, could not fail to impreſs the

minds of our philoſophic travellers, who found almoſt every thing they were in purſuit of beneath the hoſpitable roof of Sir JOSEPH BANKS, whoſe doors are thrown open to every man of taſte and ſcience, and whoſe cabinet may be juſtly called the nurſery of Natural Hiſtory. On their return, I ſay, they reſolved within themſelves to found a ſociety for the advancement of Natural Hiſtory, united with Experimental Philoſophy. Encouragement was held out from every quarter; the Royal Family took the lead; name ſeemed to vie with name, and talent with talent, to carry the plan into execution, which has ſucceeded beyond the warmeſt expectation. The lectures were given gratis, in the Prince's palace, in which an apartment is aſſigned for that purpoſe, and which, his Royal Highneſs ſays, is one of the nobleſt uſes to which it can be devoted.

I am, for ever,

Your's.

LETTER III.

DEAR SIR,

I AM glad to find that I am able to intereſt you in whatever relates to Denmark: — but ſtay, let me ſee that I am not about to pay myſelf a compliment to which I am not entitled; for, when I ſurvey what I have already addreſſed to you on the ſubject, I cannot aſcribe it either to the order, reflection, nor yet to the elegance of language, which, you know, I never aſpired to: it comes then to this—it is to the goodneſs of your own heart, that feels for all that concerns human kind. I plainly ſee, then, that you are afraid that the Daniſh lan-

guage and the imitative arts are left to the fate of younger brethern, and that no ſtep as yet has been taken for the improvement of either the one or the other: in ſhort, I think I hear you exclaim with PHILLIPS,

> From frozen climes and endleſs tracks of ſnow,
> From ſtreams that northern winds forbid to flow,
> What preſent can the Muſe in Denmark bring,
> Or how ſo near the pole attempt to ſing?

You will find, however, that the ſnowy boſom of Scandia, like that of your ſtill fairer miſtreſſes, is ſuſceptible of the ſofteſt ſenſations, and that the meaneſt ſtreamlet murmurs in eternal ſong. I know you have read in MONTESQUIEU, and the learned author of the *Reſerches Philoſophiques ſur les Americains*, that as the climate of Scandinavia is naturally rough, ſo it muſt follow, that the genius of its inhabitants muſt of courſe be rigid, and incapable of thoſe tender impreſſions, which render life not only deſirable, but even delightful.

It moſt fortunately happens, that every one of your CLIMATISTS, if I may ſo call them, are miſtaken in this point; and, that you may not merely truſt to my aſſertion, give me leave to mention Sweden, where a GUSTAVUS, at the head of a ſociety compoſed of ROSENSTEINS, SIÖBERGS, and OXENSTIERNAS, has improved and refined their language, I had almoſt ſaid, beyond the purity of Grecian ore.

Let us turn to Iceland, enveloped in perpetual ſnow; yet for centuries it might be called the native ſoil of the bards, who mingled the flames of poetry and patriotiſm ſo happily together, that whoever bled in defence of their country, were ſure to live in immortal verſe: as a proof of this, you need only read *The Fatal Siſters*, ſo admirably tranſlated by the Britiſh Pindar, GREY; and the *Death Song* of RAGNAR, publiſhed by JOHNSTONE, in which that illuſtrious warrior, like the ſwan, might be ſaid to have ſung his own elegy. In the firſt of theſe compoſitions, the imagery is well ſup-

ported; and in the laſt, the fierce ſpirit of the warrior, at proper intervals, yields to the all-conquering power of gentle love. Others reaſons muſt therefore be adduced in ſupport of your aſſertion, that the Daniſh Language is impoliſhed, and that you attribute it to the rigour of the climate. I would have offered an argument much more convincing.

The ſituation of Denmark is contiguous to Germany: her intereſt has therefore been to keep up a friendly intercourſe, nay cloſe connexion, with the Princes of that empire. Moreover the crown of Denmark has ever ſince 1448 been in the poſſeſſion of German Princes, for the Dutchy of Oldenburg belongs to the holy empire. The conſequences are obvious: the language, ſpoken at court, was the German; and the Daniſh, like that of England after the Conqueſt, was baniſhed from all, that was great and noble, elegant and polite. Nevertheleſs this rather proves, that the language has been neglected, than incapable of improvements.

That defect can only be aſcertained by a nearer, I had even ſaid, the moſt intimate acquaintance. I am by no means vain enough to boaſt a competent judgment in this point, and if I did, you would evince the contrary, by telling the world, that the Daniſh was not my native tongue. However, give me leave to remind you of what you well know, that ſtudy and perſeverance often produced what nature denies. At leaſt I have made the Daniſh language nearly my own, I have ſtudied its beſt authors, and come ſo far during the courſe of many years, as to be able to give a more ſatisfactory account of this country and its language than thoſe, who never ſaw it, or ſaw it as mere birds of paſſage. Now to the point in queſtion. What the Daniſh language has been in earlieſt times, I will not ſay. The Iſlandic monuments tell us, it was uſed in England, Norway, Sweden, the Weſtern Iſles, and a part of Ireland: and the learned JOHN ERICHSEN has fully enlarged on this ſubject, in an *Eſſay on the Daniſh*

Language, annexed to the *Life of Gunlaug Ormſtunga*, Copenh. 1776. The oldeſt monument remaining is the ſo called *Jydſke low*, or Cymbric law, paſſed by WALDEMAR I. in the year 1242. Here the language is pure, highly ſoft, but preciſe and ſententious. About this time SAXO wrote the *Hiſtory of Denmark*: he filled the republic of letters with wonder and aſtoniſhment; but, alas! he wrote in Latin, by which means his readers are deprived of the peruſal of the original documents in which you ſcarcely miſs the numberleſs beauties which he has tranſferred into the tranſlation. SAXO tells us, that he borrowed much from the national ſongs floating from time immemorial on the breath of tradition; many of theſe he has tranſlated at full length, and that with great juſtice, if we may judge from what remains of theſe ballads in a collection of ſhattered fragments, under the title of PETER SYV's *Danſke kæmpe viſer*. In many of theſe you feel every degree of ſentiment and paſſion, which the poet ſeems to have at his

controul, from the ſoft and ſoothing touches of ANACREON and CATULLUS, to the brazen clangour of TYRTÆUS: in one, you are conducted, as it were, with a ſilken clue, through all the windings of love, hope, expectation, diſappointment, deſpair, and jealouſy; and in the other,

> The varying verſe, and full reſounding line,
> The long majeſtic march, and energy divine,

kindle the ſoul of the warrior. Indeed the collection of ballads above mentioned is a convincing proof that the Daniſh language poſſeſſes in a high degree, what we call the pathetic and ſublime. All that we have duly to lament, is, that no proſaic author is left from the middle age, if we except ſome Sacred Romances or Sermons, filled with legendary tales, in a book called the *Jærtegns Poſtil*, i. e. *The Magazine of Miracles*; and a Chronicle, publiſhed in or about the beginning of the 16th cenutry: from both of which no concluſion can be formed. And thus the hiſtory of the lan-

guage reſts on mere conjecture till the year 1575, when a Daniſh tranſlation of Saxo's Hiſtory of Denmark was publiſhed by ANDREW SOFFRENSON WEDEL, with all the ſtrength and colouring of the original. From the days of that gentleman the language has gained patrons and admirers; the importance of a beautiful ſtyle, through which the brilliancy of genius could be conveyed with undiminiſhed luſtre, regulated by a ſober yet animated taſte, like the powers of muſic, was no ſooner felt than acknowledged. To accompliſh this, a Philoſophic Grammar and a General Dictionary were found neceſſary. This was a taſk of immenſe difficulty; the public could not produce it, becauſe it was not likely they would immediately unite in one opinion, on a ſubject of which every man had a right to indulge his own. A ſingle pen could not effect it, becauſe it would be perpetually ſubject to miſtakes, owing to the *caſual eclipſes of the human mind*, different advice of friends, &c. for, as yet, neither JOHNSON nor ADE-

LUNG had convinced the world of what might be expected from the unwearied exertions of one man, who, in the midſt of *ſickneſs*, *ſorrow*, and *diſtraction*, warmed by the true *amor patriæ* for the improvement of his native tongue, lived to finiſh a work, the bare deſign of which would be thought ſufficient by ſome.

A work was begun, however, by Mr. ROSTGAARD, who, in the common intercourſe of life, and higheſt offices of the State, had the firſt opportunities of becoming an excellent judge of taſte and polite literature. He was followed by the learned GRAM; but the ſuperſtructure was not equal to the foundation. To this writer LANGEBECK ſucceeded. In the mean time, the Royal Society of Sicenes aroſe. It was thought adviſeable to charge its members with the execution of a work, which was to fix the taſte of two nations. It luckily happened that Baron HOLBERG was contemporary with ROSTGAARD and GRAM. The Baron, on his return from a literary tour of Europe,

ſettled at Copenhagen, with a view of refining the taſte of his countrymen—and his ſucceſs in that reſpect has been ſuch, as to gain him the well-earned title of the Father of *Belles Lettres* in Denmark. His works are very numerous—ſcarce a branch of ſcience, that is not indebted to him. Having ſtudied SHAKESPEARE in England, MOLIERE in France, and ARIOSTO in Italy, he made himſelf maſter of every avenue to the human heart:—aided by the irreſiſtible charms of Poetry, he courted Imagination, who may be ſaid to have lent him her wand as often as he choſe to borrow it;—and, as he was convinced, that the impreſſions of theatrical repreſentations have the livelieſt effects, he called in the Stage to his aid. Previous to this time, a full houſe was preferred to a judicious one; ſuch pieces, therefore, were only exhibited, as tended to captivate the eye; little regard was paid to the improvement of the mind; the new-blown bubble of the day was all that was ſought for. HOLBERG ſaw

this, lamented it, and determined to ſtem the torrent of prejudice: his endeavours were crowned with ſucceſs—his plays became popular, approved by men of ſenſe and wit, the GAY and OTWAY of the ſtage—a revolution at once took place in the taſte and manners of the nation. Indeed it is not eaſy to point out what is moſt worthy of admiration in the writings of this author, even on the drieſt ſubject. His *Moral Sentiments*, which have been tranſlated into Engliſh, are found to be as entertaining as his *Voyage under Ground* (being a ſatire on the univerſity of which he was a member), and *The Voyage of* PETER PAARS, an epic poem in imitation of the *Odyſſey*, in which the vulgar errors of Denmark, and the inhuman cuſtoms then prevalent amongſt the inſular inhabitants of Cattegat, are depicted with all the ingenuity of an ARETINE and a BUTLER.

HOLBERG paid the debt of nature; and the fire, kindled by him on the altar of the Muſes,

was fanned by CARSTENS*, HIELMSTIERNE†, and LUXDORPH. Theſe triumviri, cemented by mutual eſteem, genius, and talents, equally conſpired in refining the true taſte, and encouraging the literature of their country. BADEN‡, ERICHSEN§, JACOBI‖, SCHLEGEL¶, and SNEDORPH**, had the honour of ſharing with them thoſe hours, which they ſnatched from the buſineſs of ſtate: wit, and judgment went hand in hand, to render the converſation at once both pleaſing and inſtructive. At this time too, the Daniſh language became an object of the Court. All men ſtudied to ac-

* ADOLPH GOTTHARD CARSTENS, Knight of the Order of Dannebrog, Privy Counſellor and Director of the German Chancery, F. R. S.

† HENRY HIELMSTIERNE, Knight of the Order of Dannebrog, Privy Counſellor and Preſident of the High Court.

‡ JACOB BADEN, Profeſſor of Belles Lettres.

§ JOHN ERICHSEN, ſee above.

‖ CHR. FR. JACOBI, ſee above.

¶ JOH. HENRY SCHLEGEL, late Profeſſor of Hiſtory.

** JENS SNEDORPH, late Profeſſor of the Royal Academy at Soroe.

quire thoſe graces which the Daniſh TRAJAN and his beloved LOUISA cheriſhed; and every body haſtened to meet that encouragement which his talents merited. The conſequences were ſuch as ſhould be expected; a ſociety of *Belles Lettres* ſprung up in 1759, and premiums ever ſince have been publicly held out by them, in order to excite and reward talents. The firſt fruits of this illuſtrious body, was *a collection of Eſſays, on the riſe and progreſs of Belles Lettres, and the Daniſh language*, rewarded with a premium, and publiſhed at Soroe in 1761---63. To this another collection has been added, under the title of *Eſſays on Belles Lettres and uſeful Science, by a Society*. Copenhagen, 1764---83, in 7 vols. 8vo. Thus, while ſome were allured by premiums, the love of praiſe called forth all the latent powers in others, and ſtimulated them to aſpire to the moſt uſeful and honourable undertakings.

GULDBERG, impreſſed with the deepeſt ſenſe of religion, publiſhed his *Letters on Matters of Important Truth; the Life and Converſation of an*

Unbeliever; and at length his *Univerſal Hiſtory*. The purity and elegance of his ſtyle, whether conſidered as a philoſopher or hiſtorian, places him at the head of all his contemporaries.

SNEDORPH, Profeſſor of Natural Laws, and the Laws of Nations, in the Univerſity of *Soroe*, wrote the *Patriotic Spectator*, in the chaſte ſtyle of ADDISON. It is no wonder that virtue and public ſpirit, thus mingled and pourtrayed in all the beauties that language could ſupply, found a number of admirers and followers. Hence JACOBI's *Panegyric on the Archbiſhop* ABSALON, and *The Praiſe of* CANUTE *the Great*, by VOGELIUS. Theſe two ſpecimens of eloquence reflect no leſs honour on the inventive powers, than the good ſenſe of their authors. SPORON and BADEN not only preſerved, but refined the public taſte, by the publication of their *Critical Reviews* and *Letters*. Here the art of combining ſeverity with grace, and ſweetneſs with grandeur, is moſt happily diſplayed. And if any thing was wanting, the Daniſh *Synonyms* by one,

and the *Grammar* by the other, prove that their language is ſuſceptible of delicacy, ſweetneſs, and ſtrength, equal to its ſiſter dialects, even the Engliſh not excepted. In ſhort, good taſte is now extended to every branch of ſcience. The ſimple majeſty of BASTHOLM's* writings afford a proper model for ſacred oratory, while the ſermons of Dr. L. SMITH†, and Dr. TRESHOW‡, flow through every inlet of the heart, like a gentle river with a pure unruffled ſurface, and, though plain, have an air of ſolemn grandeur, which produces the beſt effect. I have mentioned before, the love and zeal with which the noble SUHM cheriſhes the Northern Muſes; and notwithſtanding he is moſt partial to Antiquity and Hiſtory, yet his works of

* CHRISTIAN BASTHOLM, D. D. Confeſſor of the Royal Family, &c.

† LAURENCE SMITH, D. D. Profeſſor of Philoſophy in the Univerſity of Copenhagen, Rector of the United Pariſhes of Friderichſberg, Hvidoure, &c.

‡ HERMAN TRESHOW, D. D. Profeſſor of Divinity in the Univerſity, Rector of the Garriſons Church at Copenhagen.

Belles Lettres, as publiſhed in a collected body, amount to five octavo volumes. His Hiſtory is pleaſing, at the ſame time that it tells plain truth, without borrowing ornaments from poetry; but his *Tales* abound in clear and lively language, vivid imagination, poignant wit, and good natured humour.

Next after SUHM, I venture to name TYCHO ROTHE, a Poet and Hiſtorian, whoſe genius, aſſiſted by claſſical learning, gives grace to compoſition, though formed on a plan not quite conformable to the moſt approved archetype. His works on the *State of Europe, before and under the Feudal Laws; the Effects of Chriſtianity on the Europeans, and the ſubſequent Hierarchy*, are worthy a ſcholar and a ſtateſman.

But after all, Poetry, ſo genial to the leading paſſions of the Danes and Norwegians in former ages, ſtill maintains a decided ſuperiority among the moderns; its charms have been, and are, the moſt powerful.

In the ſacred Poetry, I know not which ſhould bear away the palm: that of FRIEMAN,

LUND, or OLROG. Force, ſimplicity, and animation, are qualities which equally characterize their hymns, and inſpire the ſoul with devotion, enliven hope, and ſtrengthen faith.

JOHN EWALD, whoſe life may be ſaid to have been the counterpart of SAVAGE's, enriched the world with Poems, and Plays, which diſcover the deepeſt knowledge of the human heart, and which, it is hoped, like thoſe of the "Swan of Avon," will receive the reward of poſterity. To EWALD, the Norwegians oppoſe TULLIN, whoſe *Day of* MAY, through the deſcriptive powers of his pencil, is dreſſed in all the charms of the Spring; every valley re-echoes to the murmurs of the cool breezes; every breeze, is a perfume; and every buſh melts with muſic. The reſt of this Poet's works are worthy of admiration; his ſentiments are ſtrong and well directed; it is he, that has the happy art of riſing in ſenſe, and ſound at the ſame time; and his tranſpoſitions are ſo artfully modulated, that the ear is never ſufficiently gratified. In a word, thoſe rival bards, who are now attuning their

harps in elyſium, are the champions of the two ſiſter nations: their names are honoured in both, and each endeavours to excel the other in trimming their garlands with the faireſt flowers.

In Denmark, the comic muſe of BAGGESEN ſtrews the thorny paths of life with roſe buds; whilſt FONTAINE and BOCCACIO find a competitor in the fables of BRUN: and RABECK ſings of Love and Wine in all the ſoftneſs of CATULLUS and ANACREON; yet in ſtrains ſo chaſte, that modeſty herſelf might liſten.

On the other hand, Norway boaſts her EDWARD PRAM, the friend of RABECK, and his partner in a periodical work, the moſt elegant vehicle of uſeful and ornamental Literature, under the title of *Minerva*.

*Emilia's Kilde: or, the Fountain of Emilia**,

* EMILIA, Counteſs of SCHIMMELMAN. To her memory the Count has rendered, ſacred, a fountain, bordering on the public road, leading from Copenhagen, along the Coaſt to Elſenore, where the ſun-burnt traveller is ſerved, gratis, with every convenience which alleviates his thirſt, and gives him reſt.

forms the baſis of PRAM's reputation, a Poem worthy of that exalted character, whoſe praiſe it ſings: I mean the Counteſs of SCHIMMELMAN, the late conſort of the preſent Miniſter of State, a lady, whoſe virtues and cultivated underſtanding rendered her the brighteſt honour to her ſex, and one of the principal ornaments of Denmark. The humanity and active benevolence which diſtinguiſhed her great mind, is deſcribed by his Muſe in the moſt pathetic language. His *Sterkodder*, an epic poem of a Norwegian hero, who lived in the golden age of ignorance and chivalry, abounds with elegant ſentences and manly ſentiments, now and then adorned with metaphors, which are bold as the mountains on which our bard was educated, and taught thoſe ſounding numbers, which rouſe our ſleeping faculties, and call forth the whole energies of our ſoul.

EDWARD STORM, likewiſe a Norwegian, has proved himſelf to be an author of exquiſite taſte, and ſuch a writer, as ſeldom can ſatisfy

his own ideas of excellence, the higher he ſoars, the wider the horizon ſeems to expand. His *Original Fables and Tales* bear the ſtamp of this way of thinking; and his *Poem on the Indigenat*, eſtabliſhed by law in Denmark, in the year 1776, is not leſs remarkable for poetical perfection, than the warm love, which the Northern nations bear to their native country.

I muſt not forget the fountains of polite literature, Latin and Greek, which flow at preſent through Denmark almoſt as pure as within their native banks. I could bring many proofs in ſupport of this bold aſſertion, but ſhall content myſelf with a few:—witneſs FRIIS ROTBOLL, BADEN, THORLACIUS*, &c. whoſe writings in the Roman tongue, "ſtream with a Ciceronian purity." THORLACIUS, as a poet, is poſſeſſed of an uncommon merit: in his imitation of HORACE he is ſecond to none, and his *Euſebe*

* SCULE THEODORI THORLACIUS, Head-maſter of the Metropolitan School of Copenhagen, and F. R. S. and Honorary Member of the S. A. London.

Triumphans may be called the triumph of ſenſe and ſound indeed! The father of lyric poetry would not be aſhamed to own it.

When Denmark is thus towering up to virtue and knowledge, the Theatre is not forgotten. The ſtate of the ſock and the buſkin, may be called the true ſtandard of the taſte of a nation, and ſo ſenſible is the public of this truth, that every ſtep has been taken to maintain that national honour, which had been eſtabliſhed by Baron HOLBERG, in this line. For this purpoſe the management of the theatre has been entruſted to the care of HANS WILLIAM WARNSTED, a Lord of his Daniſh Majeſty's Bedchamber, and GODSKE ROSENSTAND, Auditor-General of the War Office, two gentlemen whoſe refined judgment and unrivalled perſeverance in eliciting the ſparks of genius, merit the higheſt praiſe, and to whom the Daniſh ſtage owes its preſent luſtre.

The narrow limits of a letter will not permit me to expatiate on a ſubject, which already fills

ſeveral volumes. I will therefore content myſelf with naming you the books, to which you may have recourſe for information on this head. Theſe are; *The Pocket Books for Theatrical Amateurs*, by Meſſrs RABECK and SCHWARZ, which may be looked on as an introduction to *The Daniſh Theatre*, containing the Plays which have been acted on the Daniſh ſtage, publiſhed in 1775—85, 11 vols; *New Original Plays*, 4 vols; and *Operas*, 7 vols. Among theſe, are many which would do honour to any houſe: and in order to ſhew you, that Melpomene and Thalia are equally courted, I ſhall beg leave to name the following:

The Heir Apparent of Sidon, by N. K. BREDAHL.

The Lovely Huſband; and *The Amourous Friend*, by Miſs BIEHL.

The Step-mother, by WANDAHL.

The Harlequin Patriot; *The Batchelors*; *The Fiſhers*; *King Rolf Krake*; and *The Death of Balder*, by EWALD.

Einer Tambeſkielver, a tragedy, by NORDAHL BRUN.

Love without Stockings, a tragic-comedy, by WESSEL.

Having ſaid ſo much, or rather ſo little, of the Daniſh ſtage, it may be neceſſary to add a word or two on the actors and actreſſes, who have not courted the favour of the public in vain.

Mr. SCHWARTZ may be called the Proteus of the theatre; expreſſive features, harmonious voice, ſtrong and articulate, equally ſkilled to draw the tear of ſenſibility or to diffuſe ſmiles—the eaſe and politeneſs of his manners, and the vivacity of his converſation, render him a welcome gueſt not only in the public, but even the private circles of faſhion and conviviality. Mr. SCHWARTZ is allowed to be the firſt male ſinger on the Daniſh ſtage; his muſical talents are univerſally admired; and to all theſe accompliſhments he has added that of dancing in an eminent degree.

Mr. Rossing has ſacrificed to the graces, who ſeem to direct not only his geſticulation but expreſſion, which is remarkably animated. The ſymmetry of his perſon has enabled him to carry thoſe excellencies to an extent that captivates the moſt indifferent ſpectator.

Mr. Kemp has acquired a reputation in low comedy, which can ſcarcely be exceeded; wit and humour are qualities, which he poſſeſſes in a very high degree, and give him a decided rank among the beſt players.

Mr. Preisler is an actor of great humour and gradually advances to the perfection of his profeſſion in low comedy, which already has crowned him with great eclat.

Mrs. Rossing—the talents of this lady in tragedy and comedy are of the firſt rate; the mellowed gravity of her countenance, the dignity and variety of her voice are peculiarly adapted to both, and her judgment of delivering the ſenſe of the author, and dreſſing characters with propriety cannot eaſily be ex-

ceeded. The power of ſinging is the only gift which is denied by Nature, to this amiable and accompliſhed female.

Mr. GELSTRUP has every thing that can recommend a comedian: a handſome figure, a loſty voice, tempered with variety and judgment, hightens, if poſſible, his graceful manner. His Lady, Mrs. GELSTRUP, is a firſt rate actreſs in the ſportive walks of comedy: the features of her face, the freedom of her laugh, and, above all, the unborrowed eaſe of her deportment, conſpires to render her a great favourite.

Mrs. BERTELSEN, better known by her maiden name MULLER, is now what Mrs. CRAWFORD was ſome twenty years ago—in perſon, voice, and action, in comedy and tragedy.

The School for Scandal, which of itſelf is ſufficient to immortalize the author, is the touch-ſtone (as acted at Drury-lane) by which we are enabled to form an idea of the ſtage in

Denmark. Suffice it to ſay, that SHERIDAN himſelf would acknowledge that his wit and humour have not evaporated in the hands of the tranſlator Mr. TORUP.

Having mentioned this tranſlator, I cannot help obſerving, that the modern Danes are emulous to imitate the attic ſimplicity and elegant plainneſs of ſtyle which diſtinguiſh the *Drapier's Letters*, and the eaſy flow of ſome of the beſt papers in the *Spectator*. On this account, the preference is given to Engliſh literature next to the *Attic Bee*, and other of the ancient claſſics. Hence the great variety of Engliſh writers appear to no ſmall advantage in the Daniſh tongue, in almoſt every branch of ſcience. Many of theſe have fallen into very able hands, ſuch as LODDES, LUXDORPHS, WEDEL JARLSBERGS, THURAS, SCHONHEYDERS, &c. In fine, the Engliſh language is ſtudied with the utmoſt avidity. As a proof, I have added a liſt of ſuch Engliſh works, as have been tranſlated either in the whole or in part within thoſe laſt few years, at the end of the next letter.

Where ſo much attention has been paid to the cultivation of the languages, you may reaſonably conclude, that the arts, which embelliſh the moſt rational purſuits of the human mind, and add to the graces of converſation, are not neglected. Muſic which ſwells the ſoul to rage, and kindles the ſoft deſire, refines in proportion as it elevates our nature. Dancing encreaſes health, adds ſtrength to the body, and elegance to motion. For theſe reaſons, both are ſtudied as ſciences in Denmark; the firſt in the muſic ſchool, under the care of Profeſſor LEM, who has made it his ſtudy from his infancy. His execution particularly on the violin is univerſally admired by the amateurs of that art—in ſhort, he has the ſame ear in muſic that POPE had in poetry. Mr. SCHALTZ (leader of the band) is well known as a firſt rate compoſer. The royal dancing ſchool is diſtinguiſhed by Mrs. LORENZEN, and the inventive powers of Mr. BARK, the ballet maſter.

The many clubs or ſocieties, which of late have been eſtabliſhed at Copenhagen, may be

conſidered as ſo many nurſeries of polite converſation, and elegant manners.

The MILITARY CLUB, in particular, founded by the Royal Heir apparent, has introduced by their law, the culture of every ſcience, which tends to the accompliſhment of a ſoldier, and to unite with their profeſſional roughneſs, the combined charms of the muſes and the graces. The concerts and balls, which they give at certain intervals, do honour to the ſociety, and prove, that the arts of peace, inſtead of abating bravery, or throwing a damp on courage, ſerves much more to encreaſe its worth, and placing it in a clearer light.

In my next I will give you a ſhort account of the Royal Academy.—In the mean time,

I am, &c.

LETTER IV.

DEAR SIR,

HAVING taken a ſlight ſurvey of the literary ſtate of Denmark, in order to preſerve the appearance of method, I come now to conſider her relative to the polite arts. The information, which is all that I aim at, may, perhaps, compenſate for the manner in which it is conveyed. The Daniſh kings have always gloried in protecting and encouraging even the moſt feeble efforts of genius. The reformation, began by LUTHER, enabled them to indulge thoſe paſſions, which may be called the true ornament of Princes. Nevertheleſs the ſucceſs, in the

courſe of centuries, did not keep pace with the generous deſign: wars abroad, and a tottering conſtitution at home, rendered almoſt every effort, if not ineffectual, at leaſt weak. We muſt, however, guard againſt a leading opinion in ſouthern climes, that the Goths or Scandinarians are ſavages, inimical, as it were, from the moment of their birth, to whatever ſoftens or refines human nature. Experience plainly proves, that the expanſion of the freeborn does not, like a plant, depend on time or place: the progreſs may be ſlow, but in the end it will attain to maturity. This has been the caſe with Denmark. Its Princes have been anxious for ages to make the arts an object of national attention. Thus FREDERICK II. drew artiſts and handicrafts from every quarter of Europe, and left Crownburgh and Frederickſburgh as a ſtandard even at this day of taſte and magnificence. This Monarch was ſucceeded by CHRISTIAN IV. whoſe love of painting, architecture, and ſtatuary, can only be compared to his courage

and magnanimity, which perhaps are unequalled. Not ſatisfied with having reared the palaces of Roſenburgh and Jægerſburgh, he built the town of Chriſtania, in Norway; Chriſtianſhavn, contiguous to Copenhagen; Chriſtianſtad, Chriſtianſpriis, Chriſtianopel, and Gluckſtad, in his German provinces. The Obſervatory of Copenhagen, called the Round Tower from its form, is truly unique in its ſtructure and does honour to its builder. On a ſpiral ſtaircaſe without ſteps you may drive in a chaiſe and two from the bottom to the top, and down again with eaſe and ſafety. As to his taſte for painting and ſculpture, the pictures of CARL VAN MANDEREN, a Flemiſh artiſt, whom he invited to Denmark; and the ſepulcral monuments, ſacred to the memory of his predeceſſors CHRISTIAN III. and FREDERIC II. in the cathedral of Roſkild, are the moſt ample proofs. FREDERICK IV. a Prince endowed by nature with an uncommonly good ſenſe, took the method of going abroad, in order to enrich his

ideas with every thing, which by way of compariſon, he might find applicable to his own. It was impoſſible for him to travel through Italy without catching the ſacred fire of refined taſte. Unfortunately the flame of war aroſe ſoon after. But the treaty, ſigned at Fredenſburgh in 1719, put at length an end to that rancour and inveterate hatred ſo uſual between rival nations in cloſe neighbourhood, and which of courſe had proved the fatal ſource of misfortune, the moſt direful both to Denmark and Sweden for more than ſix centuries. The peace ſecured to Denmark the comforts of ſociety; deprived FREDERICK of every emulation but that of making a flouriſhing people, and left him the only road to purſue, which could gain him the eſteem and admiration of poſterity. In ſhort, the remainder of this King's reign was proſperous; the national ſpirit was rouſed; refinement of taſte and manners became at once the faſhion; arts begun to flouriſh, and Copenhagen became the ſeat of polite arts. On the ſpot

where the peace had been concluded, a houſe was erected called Fredenſburgh (the *houſe of peace*), and another was reared on a hill near the capital. In both places art and nature have united the powers of their ſublime though ſimple majeſty. From this time the long drawn aile and fretted roof, the pointed arch and narrow windows, which ſhed the melancholy twilight, gave way to the ſpacious hall, the platform enriched with the hiſtorical pencil, the circular arch, and windows at once calculated to fill the room with air and light.

CHRISTIAN VI. at his acceſſion to the throne, felt what he owed to his father. Under the ſpecious pretext of building a palace, the reſidence of himſelf and his ſucceſſors, the beſt artiſts of every denomination were invited from abroad, and Chriſtianſburgh raiſed its head in a pile of building, where the beſt Greek and Roman archetypes were faithfully adhered to. One caught the fire from another, which was fanned with mutual emulation; and claſſical works

were compoſed, which you may ſee in DIDERICH THURA's *Vitruvius Danicus*, Copenhagen, 1742—48, 2 vols. in folio.

The encouragement hitherto given to the fine arts might be ſaid to be caſual, as reſting on no certain baſis. It was reſerved for FREDERICK V. to form a permanent eſtabliſhment, where genius was once to meet with encouragement, rewards, and honours. This monarch no ſooner mounted the throne, than he ſhewed how anxious he was to improve and embelliſh his capital; an undertaking in which he was heartily joined by his loyal ſubjects. Copenhagen by this means was enriched with the addition of a new quarter called Frederickſtad, which, in point of architecture, extent, and, I may venture to add, ſituation, cannot even be equalled by Portland Place. In the centre of this magnificent range is the ſtatue of FREDERICK himſelf on horſe back, erected at the expence of the Eaſt India Company as a monu-

ment of their gratitude, and his exalted worth. ADDISON juſtly obſerves, that

" Art reflects image upon art."

It was now found neceſſary, that a ſucceſſion of artiſts and workmen in the different branches ſhould be had at all times, who were poſſeſſed of real taſte, in order to execute the deſigns, which had been laid down as well for the public as the private works intended for the embelliſhment of the metropolis. Denmark has at all times produced men endowed with ſuperior talents, when called forth by proper encouragement. It is but juſtice to ſay that Mr. SALLY, as a ſculptor, is deemed little inferior if not equal, by the beſt judges, to the firſt maſters in that art. This gentleman ſpared neither pains nor expence to raiſe a generation of native artiſts at the inſtance he was taking the ſureſt ſteps to eternize the memory of his royal patron. Hence it was, that a plan of an academy was formed, which, on the 31ſt of March, 1754, was honoured with

a charter from the King, and at once insured to Denmark a number of subjects capable of producing the happiest inventions.

This institution was sacred to painting, architecture, and sculpture. The first statutes were, in the course of time, found inadequate, and new regulations were added, by the founder, in 1758; and afterwards by his son CHRISTIAN VII. on the 21st of June, 1771. But in order to form some idea of the Academy, it will perhaps meet your approbation, if I give a short description of it. The Academy is composed of a President named by the King. —At present this illustrious office is filled by His Royal Highness Prince FREDERICK, brother to His Majesty: secondly, a Director chosen from among the professors themselves. The present Director is NICOLAS ABILDGAARD, whose object seems to be, that every pencil should equal the heaven directed touches of his own, which are universally admired. When you were at Rome, you spoke highly of his idea

and expreſſion of beauty and ſymmetry. I wiſh you had an opportunity of ſeeing his works, which, at preſent, adorn the Grand Saloon of the Knights in the palace of Chriſtianſburgh, you would then acknowledge, that his light and ſhade upon the whole is midway betwixt the twilight of CARACHE, and the ſunſhine of TITIAN. The colours ſeem to have flowed of themſelves beneath his pencil, and to have known where to kindle into life, or where to die in ſhade. In ſhort, his fort is beauty and ſimplicity. He uſes his pencil inſtead of crayon, and endeavours to combine all the excellencies of the ſchools of Florence, Rome, and Venice. His mode of colouring diſcovers a general air of grandeur at firſt view; the diſtinct colours however are moſt happily diſplayed in many of his paintings, particularly in that of CHRISTIAN IV. in a ſea-fight. The tranſitions are ſo ſudden and ſo natural, that they deſcribe, beyond the power of the pen, the horror of an obſtinate battle, in

which the royal ſailor is ſeen bleeding at every vein, regardleſs of his own ſafety and calling forth by words and example every ſpark of patriotiſm and courage in the brave tars. Every man, that fell, ſeemed to bequeath his ſtrength and proweſs to his fellows, from the encreaſe of their exertions, which at length ended in one of the compleateſt victories, that ever graced the naval annals of Denmark.

The reſt of the academical ſenate conſiſts of nine Profeſſors and a Secratary. The Academy is divided into five ſchools or claſſes: viz. the Model-School, and the ſchools of Architecture, Perſpective, Anatomy, Hiſtory and Mythology*.

* The Profeſſors of theſe ſchools are the following:

Of the Model School.

JOHN WIEDEWELT, firſt Sculptor to the King.
JOHN MARTIN PREISLER, firſt Engraver to the King.
ANDREW WEIDENHAUPT, Sculptor to the King.
NICOLAS ABILDGAARD, firſt Painter to the King.
CHARLES FREDERIC STANLEY, Sculptor to the King.
JENS JUEL, Painter to the King.

The School of Architecture.

CASPAR FREDERIC HARSDORFF, firſt Architect to the King.

The School of Perſpective.

PETER MEYN, Architect to the King.

The Model School is directed by ſix Profeſſors, beſides three Teachers. To this claſs, however, two inferior ſchools are ſubordinate: in one the ſtudents are ſtrictly enjoined to copy drawings; and in the other they draw from nature. Their drawings muſt reſemble the model, both with reſpect to its form and beauty: and when they are at length ſufficiently familiarized with what conſtitutes the eſſential perfection of ſcience, they are left to follow their own genius—to diſplay their talents, and choice of maſters and materials. In a word, elegance of deſign, novelty of deſign and beauty of finiſhing are the united objects at which the ſtudent aims. To accompliſh this, all the aid of zeal and protection is given; for the young perſons who, upon application made by themſelves, have been admitted to the Aca-

The School of Anatomy.

ANDREW WEIDENHAUPT.

The School of Hiſtory and Mythology.

ABRAHAM KALL, Profeſſor of Hiſtory in the Univerſity.

Secretary.

CORNELIUS HÖYER, Profeſſor, and Painter to the King.

demy, receive inſtruction gratis every day from five till ſeven o'clock, Sundays excepted. Both the Profeſſors and the Teachers muſt attend in order to guide their pupils in their performance, to point out to them the ſureſt road to excellence, and to lead them as it were to the temple of taſte and fame. The Academy beſides is furniſhed with an excellent library, and a great collection of ancient and modern drawings.

Wiſe as the regulations are which relate to the education of young artiſts, the meaſures are not leſs ſo, which are employed for the purpoſe of exciting emulation among them. The King has granted to each of the three arts, viz. Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, two ſilver medals, of different prices, to be adjudged every three months to thoſe who have made, during that time, the greateſt progreſs in drawing and modeling after the patterns laid before them, or to thoſe who make the beſt compoſition on a ſubject of Architecture. Beſides the Academy diſtributes two golden medals, a greater and a

leſſer, every ſecond year, to each claſs of ſcholars, who have applied themſelves moſt ſucceſsfully to Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, and Engraving. To attain theſe prizes, the pupils are obliged, in the beginning of February, to compoſe, in the art to which they are devoted, a ſketch of a ſubject, which is given them by the Academy *in corpore*. After theſe ſketches have been received by the ſtudents, they execute their deſigns at large in ſeparate apartments, ſo conſtructed, as to prevent a mutual intercourſe during the time of trial, or to admit any foreign aſſiſtance.

In order to enable a genius of ſuperior ſkill and talents to arrive at a ſettled excellence, the King has ſet a fund aſide for thoſe who, in their reſpective claſſes, gain the greater golden medal; when this has been diſtributed, as the well earned reward of merit, the ſtudent has a right to go abroad at the expence of the public, as it is ſuppoſed that his

Highborn ſoul
Diſdains to reſt her heav'n aſpiring wing
Beneath its native quarry: tired of home,
And ſcenes the ſame, ſhe flies abroad
Through fields of imagination.

The uſual mart they hurry to is Duſſeldorff, Bologna, Rome, and Florence. Here they are ordered to ſtudy the genuine works of maſters, whoſe works the taſte of centuries has dared to pronounce to be divine, perfect, and immortal. The artiſts purſue their travels in general at the expence of the public for the courſe of ſix years, which, if well ſpent, on their return is crowned by their reception as members of this reſpectable body, a ſtep; which is the ſureſt road to the chair.

Admittance into this Academy is an honour worthy of ambition; it is therefore authorized to receive foreign aſſociates, and honourary members of other Academies. But that it may be a real honour and always retain its value, it is expreſsly ordered, that an aſſociate cannot be admit-

ted but by the merit of his works. For this reaſon a ſpecimen of the Candidate, whether a native or foreigner, muſt be laid before the ſenate, which being found worthy of the ſolicited reward, is carefully preſerved and publicly exhibited in the apartments of the Academy. Here are even ſome productions of the moſt exalted perſons. Thus a ſpectator views with great pleaſure the works of the KING of SWEDEN, and the DUKE of GLOUCESTER. Among the reſt, the paintings in water colours of Mrs. BAERENS are moſt conſpicuous. This lady was the firſt female that received the honour of being elected a member. The excellence of her pencil conſiſts in the moſt perfect and vivid expreſſion of nature; and ſhe poſſeſſes the power of animating, as it were, and dignifying the figures of birds, inſects, flowers, &c. In every branch of Natural Hiſtory, her taſte is as delicate as the texture of the unſun'd lily, and as pure as the dew that beſpangles it. The royal family and the Empreſs of Ruſſia have rewarded

her merit. The King of Denmark (as I am told) has ſettled a liberal penſion on her; and CATHARINA has honoured her with ſeveral preſents worthy a crowned head*. Mr. CLEMENS, the celebrated engraver, has the pleaſure of beholding his wife's name as the ſecond of the fair ſex on the ſame liſt.

All the members of the Academy, of whatever order, are duly elected by a majority of votes. Such of the Profeſſors as had no penſion have obtained it by the King's generoſity. The ſeminary, according to its inſtitution, aſſembles every firſt and laſt Monday in the month; and every third month there is a general aſſembly, to which all the members are particularly invited, but they can only give a deliberative vote in affairs of great conſequence: in all other caſes the Profeſſors, honorary Members, and Counſellors, have the right of ſuffrage alone, and the reſolutions of the Aſſembly are kept in their records.

* Mrs BÆRENS is at preſent in London.

The royal palace of Charlotteſburgh is the chief ſeat of polite arts. Many of its rooms are aſſigned to the ſtudents of the Academy. In other of its apartments diſtinguiſhed artiſts have obtained a pleaſant retreat. This illuſtrious inſtitution has often received additional luſtre from that particular patronage and affectionate regard which the Prince Royal beſtows on it. And his frequent viſits are attended with the moſt ſalutary effects; what he approves at one viſit, is excelled in the next; his very look may be ſaid to kindle all around him; ſo anxious are the ſtudents to render themſelves worthy his eſtimation.

On the 31ſt of March, the anniverſary of the royal founder is celebrated by diſtributing publicly the prizes, which have been previouſly adjudged to ſucceſsful and enterprizing genius. On thoſe occaſions, the royal Preſident, aſſiſted by the Profeſſors and the academic Members, diſtributes the premiums in the preſence of the public, after which he ſigns the diplomas for

new members. In the courſe of a few days, the public is gratuitouſly admitted to view an exhibition, which is intended to enlarge the boundaries of taſte, and to place the talents of young men in a point of view, in which they may be ſeen to every advantage.

If the preceding letters have in any degree ſatisfied your curioſity, it is not improbable, but I may venture to add a ſketch of the literary ſtate of Norway, Iceland, and the Germanic Provinces belonging to Denmark.

I am,

My dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

Note to Page 10.

See a Daniſh publication entitled, *Obſervations on a petition laid before His Royal Highneſs the Heir Apparent by ſome of the landed intereſt in Jutland, complaining of their property being violated through the medium of the late Edicts, which emancipate the Peaſantry from feudal Bondage, and aſcertain their Rights and Duties. Sacred to enlightened Philanthropy, Civil Liberty, and the Daniſh Nation*, by CHRISTAIN COLBIOSRNEN, *Deputy of the Daniſh Chancery, Attorney general to the King, &c. Copenhagen*, 1790. The preſent work, in point of ſtyle and ſentiments, does equal honour to the name of COLBIORNSEN, the deliverer of Norway from the all-deſolating ſpirit of CHARLES XII. And we learn from it, that a committee was appointed in 1787 for the purpoſe of attending the Judges on their circuits in order to enquire judicially into the ſtate of the peaſantry, and to concert with the landed intereſt the beſt means for aſcertaining the mutual rights and duties of them and their tenants. The report of this committee and the Judges was laid before the King, and ſerved as the baſis of all thoſe regulations, which have been framed ſince that period for the honour and happineſs of ſociety.

Note to Page 12.

The new regulations, which of late have been adopted by the Daniſh government for the welfare of Iceland and Finmark, are amply deſcribed in two publications under the title of *The Icelandic Commercial Magazine*; and *The Commercial Magazine of Finmark:* by CHARLES PONTOPPIDAN, Counſellor of State, Member R. S. Iſl. and the Society of Arts, Manuf. and Commerce, and honorary Member S. A. London. Works which abound with deep reſearches, manly ſentiments, and the warmeſt philanthropy, ſo congenial to the PONTOPPIDAN family. Fortunate it is for theſe two countries to find an advocate in this author, who, in order to do good, underwent all the hardſhips conſequent on the trade to Iceland, and aſcended by ſlow degrees to that exalted ſtation, with which he at preſent is inveſted as Director of the Icelandic and Finmarkic Trade and Commerce; a ſtation which enables him to draw information from the pureſt fountains.

List of English Authors tranſlated into the Danish Language.

BLAIR's *Sermons*, by Commodore de Thura. Copenhagen.

Dodridge's *Sermons*. Copenhagen, 1770.

Gibson's *Paſtoral Letters*, by Biſhop J. Hee. Copenhagen.

Glover's *Leonidas*, by H. West. Copenhagen, 1786—87.

Lindsay's *Dialogues*. Copenhagen.

Milton's *Paradiſe Loſt*, by J. Schonheyder, M.D. Copenhagen, 1790—91.

Newton *on the Prophecies*, by Commodore de Thura. Copenhagen.

Pope's *Eſſay on Man*, by C. C. Lous. Copenhagen.

——— *Third Letter on the Uſe of Riches*, by Privy Counſellor Luxdorph.

Sherlock's *Works*, by Commodore de Thura. Copenhagen.

Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, by E. Boye. Copenhagen.

Sterne's *Sentimental Journey through France*, by H. J. Birck.

Smith's *Eſſay on the Wealth of Nations*, by Drebye. Copenhagen.

YOUNG's *Night Thoughts*, by E. BALLING. Elſenore.
——— *ditto*, by B. J. LODDE. Copenhagen, 1783.
——— *The Laſt Judgment*, by Baron WEDEL JARLSBERG. Copenhagen, 1787.
——— *ditto*, by LODDE.
——— *Conſolation againſt Adverſity*, by ditto. Copenhagen, 1787.
——— *Seven characteriſtic Satyres on Honeſty*, by E. W. Copenhagen.
——— *Centaur not fabulous*, by B. J. LODDE. Copenhagen, 1785.

PLAYS AND NOVELS.

Amelia.
Betty. Lady *Burton*, by C. W. FURSMAN. Copenhagen, 1771.
Clariſſa, RICHARDSON's.
Evelina, Miſs BURNEY's. Copenhagen.
Fool of Quality, BROOKE's. Ditto.
Grandiſon, RICHARDSON's. Ditto.
Miſtake of a Night. Ditto.
Oſſian, MACPHERSON's. Ditto.
Pamela, RICHARDSON's. Ditto.
School for Scandal, SHERIDAN's, by THORUP. Copenhagen.
Tom Jones, FIELDING's. Copenhagen.
Vicar of Wakefield, GOLDSMITH's, by D. BAST. Copenhagen, 1779.

What you pleaſe, by B. J. LODDE. Copenhagen.
Weſt Indian, by B. J. LODDE. Copenhagen, 1779.

MISSCELLANEOUS PAPERS.

Biekuben, i. e. The Beehive, or the Thoughts of others, containing the beſt pieces of the Spectator, the Guardian, and other periodical publications, tranſlated by B. J. LODDE.

The Magazine of Novels, by H. J. BIRCK.

Extracts from the beſt Engliſh Authors, by ODIN WOLFF. Copenhagen, 1788.

ERRATA.

page	*line*	*for*	*read*
22	note	of purpoſe	purpoſe of
51	20	nature	natura
60	6	pleaſant. Eaſtern	pleaſant, Eaſtern
72	18	far him	him far
90	22	converſation	converſion
120	10	*del.* and the Duke of GLOUCESTER	